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BLACKIE'S
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SERIES.

THIRD READER.



LONDON:
BLACKIE & SON, 49 & 50 OLD BAILEY, E.C.
GLASGOW, EDINBURGH, AND DUBLIN.
1879.



P R E F A C E.

THE special features in these Readers are: (1) They are progressive, comprehensive, and are written in language suitable to the minds of children; (2) They are carefully graduated and systematically arranged.

It is confidently hoped, that the subjects selected will be found such as will foster in the youthful mind a love of reading and a high moral tone of feeling and conduct. Kindness to animals is inculcated in a variety of illustrative instances, so as to strike the mind and impress the memory of the pupil.

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THIRD READER.

THE GRASS.



1. I roam all over the mountain,
And by the cottage door,
Close by the silvery fountain,
And near the waterfall's roar.
2. I creep in the city streets,
And o'er the country wide,
And in the deep and shady wood
I dearly love to hide.
3. I beautify the princely park,
And grace the rough way-side;
The soaring lark doth gladly seek
In me her nest to hide.
4. I creep o'er all the quiet graves,
Where little children sleep,
And never weary of my watch
But constant vigils keep.

5. The gentle dew comes with its tears
 And all the summer weather,
 Over the dear and cherished dead,
 We watch and weep together.



roam, wander.
silvery, like silver.
weary, get tired.

beautify, make it look
 pretty.
vigils, night watches.

graves **cot-tage**
foun-tain **prince-ly**
moun-tain **soar-ing**

con-stant **qui-et**
wea-ther **cher-ish-ed**
wa-ter-fall **to-ge-ther**

THE ANT HILL.

1. What is George looking at? At an ant hill. How busy the little things are! It is not play; it is not an idle running here and there after nothing. They have work to do, and they are doing it with all their might.

2. There are three classes of ants—males, females, and workers. The males and females have white, shining wings. They may be seen strutting round among the workers. If one of them should try to run away, he is soon looked after and brought back.

3. An ant was once seen trying to escape, when he was seized by these workers, who took him by the wings and marched him back to his place. The workers are the builders, masons, nurses, and market men of an ant town. They are very faithful workers too!

4. In Africa the white ants build wonderful houses. Sometimes these houses are fourteen stories high—higher than a man.

5. Our red and yellow ants build under ground. Perhaps they do this, because they can make their houses warmer than if they built them above the ground.

6. If the top of an ant hill is taken off, there will be found nurseries, chambers, halls, and kitchens, all built in the nicest manner,—snug, strong, and waterproof. A more busy town is seldom seen.

7. The nurses must have plenty to do, where there are hundreds and thousands of babies to take care of. In their baby state they do not look like ants at all.

8. They look more like small grains of rice or wheat. These have all to be fed, and to be kept warm and clean.

9. When it is too cool in the house, they are taken out and laid in the sun. When it is too warm or too cold out of doors, they are carried back, for babies must be kept comfortable.

10. It is very curious to watch the nurses minding them. As the babies grow bigger, it must be hard work, but the faithful nurses do not mind that.

11. Going to market, to provide for a family of ants, is not an easy thing. An ant was seen to walk up to a piece of apple, and look at it on all sides. He found it was too much for him, so he ran back and brought with him four other ants to help him. They sawed the apple in two. Three took one piece, and two the other, and pulled them home.

12. Ants are never idle, and they never go from home without having some work to do. Idle people are told to "go to the ant, to consider her ways and be wise."

strutting, walking proudly.
escape, get away.
seized, taken hold of.
faithful, true.

stories, rooms above one another.
busy, working hard.
comfortable, happy.

run-ning	work-ers	kitch-ens	cu-ri-ous
build-ers	won-der-ful	wa-ter-proof	ap-ple
ma-sons	cham-bers	ba-bies	saw-ed
per-haps	con-sid-er	peo-ple	bus-i-ness

What was George looking at? How were the ants working? How many classes of ants are there? Name these classes? What do the working ants do? How high are the ant houses in Africa? Where do our red and yellow ants build? Why? What will be found if the top of an ant hill is taken off? What do the baby ants look like? How did the ant get the bit of apple to its home? What are idle people told to do?

LESSON FROM THE FLOWERS.

1. There's not a yellow buttercup
Returning with the Spring,
But it can boast a golden crown,
As bright as any king.
2. The cowslip and the lily fair,
That charm our summer day;
There's not a lady in the land
So finely dressed as they.
3. They feel no proud, no foolish thoughts,
Because they are so fair,
They wish for nothing, quite content
With sunshine and sweet air.

4. God gave to them their colours bright;
 To us, Faith, Hope, and Love,
 And bade us leave the things of earth,
 And seek the things above.

there's, there is.

boast, to be proud of.

charm, delight.

returning, coming back.

bright

yel-low

sum-mer

be-cause

thoughts

gold-en

con-tent

sun-shine

quite

dress-ed

fine-ly

but-ter-cup



THE LOST BOAT.

1. The sun was just setting on the sea, when three children, belonging to a small fishing village close by, came down to the shore to play. An old boat lay at the edge of the water tied to a stake by a short rope. This boat belonged to one of the fishermen in the village.

2. The children got into it. For some time they

amused themselves with watching the ripples gently breaking against its sides, and with jumping from the edge of the boat on to the shore.

3. The tide was rapidly coming in, and the waves became larger and larger. They lifted up the little boat and danced it up and down. The children enjoyed this greatly for a long time. They knew they could soon paddle through the surf to the shore when they were tired. But alas! in the midst of their sport the rope broke, and, as the tide began to turn, the boat drifted out to sea.



4. When it grew dark, and they did not return home, their parents began to be afraid. They sought for them in vain in the village. They also went up and down the shore, calling them by their names. It was so dark they could see nothing, and

besides, the boat had been for some time out of sight.

5. When day began to break, the owner came down to the shore to get out his boat, and found it gone. Then the parents thought that their children might possibly have been carried out to sea in this boat. They knew they were in the habit of playing in it.

6. The father with two of his friends put off from the shore in the hope of finding the lost ones. They rowed about during the greater part of the day, and were about giving up in despair, when one of the men thought he saw a black speck on the water.

7. They rowed rapidly to it and found it to be the missing boat. On reaching it, the delight of the father was very great. Within the boat his three children lay asleep, locked in each other's arms, as if they were in no greater danger than in their warm beds.

8. The children awoke and smiled, and seemed to have forgotten for the moment all that had happened. They soon, however, told their tale,—how they had dropped asleep the evening before, and slept soundly all that night and day.

9. The joy of the mother on seeing her children again was unbounded. She asked them if they did not feel frightened when they found themselves alone on the wide sea. They said quickly, "Yes, we did feel frightened at first, but afterwards we thought that God would take care of us, as we could not help ourselves, and so our fears went away."

stake, a stump or stick.
ripples, small waves.
surf, the part of the wave
 that breaks on the shore.

drifted, floated away.
sought, looked for.
despair, without hope.
unbounded, having no
 check.

edge	watch-ing	pa-rents	rap-id-ly
own-er	com-ing	sur-prise	be-long-ing
vil-lage	reach-ing	be-sides	fright-en-ed
great-er	no-thing	pos-si-bly	fish-er-man

To whom did the boat belong? What lifted the boat and made it dance up and down? How did the boat drift out to sea? What did the parents of the children do? What made them think the children might be in the boat? Who went in search of the children? Where were the children found? What were they doing? What prevented them from being frightened?

COTTON.

1. I wonder if many boys and girls know what cotton is. They see it often, and wear it every day. But do they know what it is, and how it is made into cloth?

2. Cotton is a kind of down, which is found on the inside of the pod of a plant. This plant grows in lands much warmer than our own.

3. The cotton trees, as they are called, are planted in rows in the fields. When the pods are ripe, they are picked off. In some parts of the world, women and children *are employed* to do this.

4. When the pods are picked off, the inside, which looks like short white wool, is taken out of them. This is packed up in large bundles, which are called bales.



5. These bales are taken to the nearest seaport town. They are then put into ships, and brought to this country.

6. When the ships are unloaded, the bales are sent *to towns, where the cotton is made up into cloth*

7. The bales are first opened, and the cotton is cleared from the seeds and other substances found amongst it. It is then spun into thread.

8. The thread is taken to the loom and woven into cloth. This cloth, which is called *calico*, is made up into shirts and frocks for boys and girls to wear.

9. When the shirts and frocks are old and worn out, they are sold to the ragman. He collects them and makes them up into large bundles, which he sends to the paper-mill.

10. Here, they are carefully washed. They are then cut up, and made into a pulp. From this pulp, paper is made.

11. You learn from this lesson, what a useful thing cotton is. Even the paper of the book on which this is printed, was, most likely, cotton growing in the fields.

down, a soft substance like wool.

pulp, a soft mass.

pod, a part of a plant that contains the seed.

loom, a weaving machine.

brought

a-mongst

pick-ed

em-ploy-ed

thread

cot-ton

bun-dles

care-ful-ly

pack-ed

wov-en

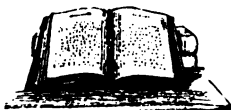
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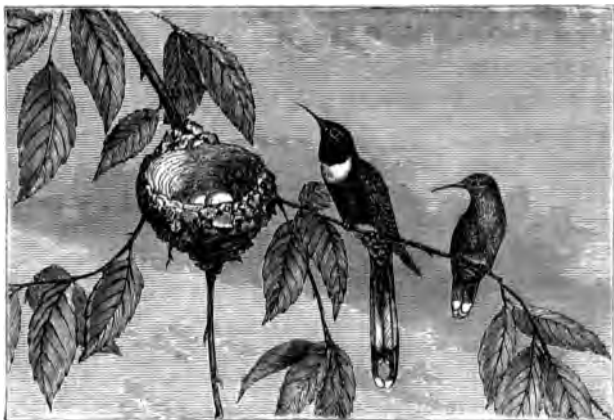
un-load-ed

What is cotton? Where does it grow? What are the bundles of cotton called? How are the bundles brought to this country? What is done to the cotton when the bales are opened? How is it made into cloth? What is the cloth called? What is done to it when it is worn out?

THE COTTON TREE.

1. Fair befall the cotton tree!
Bravely may it grow!
Bearing in its seedy pod,
Cotton, white as snow.
2. Spin the cotton into thread;
Weave it in the loom;
Wear it now, thou little child,
In thy happy home.
3. Thou hast worn it well and long;
Are its uses past?
No, this well-worn cotton thing
Is a *book* at last.
4. Sort and grind, and pulp the rags;
Weave the paper fair;
Now it only waits for words
To be printed there.
5. Thoughts from God to man sent down,
May those pages show!
Blessed be the cotton tree;
Bravely may it grow!





THE HUMMING BIRD.

1. The humming bird lives in warm sunny regions. It is very small. Its body is no larger than a nut. The feathers on its wings and tail are black.

2. Those on its body, and under its wings, are of a greenish brown, with a fine red gloss. These colours glitter in the sun, and look like a glowing coal of fire.

3. There is a small tuft of feathers on its head called a crest, which looks as rich as gold. The bill is black, and of the length of a small pin.

4. When these pretty little birds fly about in the sun-light, it is a very gay sight. Some kinds of humming birds have been called, on account of their great beauty, "sun angels."

5. These birds fly about in great numbers. The woods seem to be alive with them. They are never

still, but fly from flower to flower, and sip the sweets from them. They feed on the honey of flowers, and on the insects that are found within them.

6. They may be seen like bees, passing from flower to flower, and dipping in their bills, seeking for their food. They do not rest on the flowers, but keep themselves up in the air, by the rapid motion of their wings.

7. As they fly so quickly, their wings make a gentle humming noise in the air. For this reason they are called humming birds. The hum is very much like the hum of the bee, as it flies in search of honey.

8. The nest of the humming bird is mostly hung from the twigs of an orange tree. It is about half as large as a hen's egg. There are never more than two tiny eggs in it. These are about the size of small peas, as white as snow, dotted here and there with yellow spots.

9. In ten or twelve days, these eggs are hatched. At first the young ones are bare, but in a little time they are covered with down. Shortly after, the feathers appear.

10. Thousands of these birds are killed every year. The natives kill them by means of a dart blown through a hollow reed. Their skins, with the feathers on, are sent to Europe, where they are used to make fans and head-dresses.

11. Humming birds are very brave. They do not fear the hawk, eagle, or owl. They have been known to fasten themselves on the eagle, and even

to perch on its head, pecking with all their might. They often scatter the eagle's feathers, as the great bird vainly tries to rid itself of its tiny foes.

regions, places.

gloss, polish.

glitter, sparkle.

glowing, burning.

tuft, bunch.

rapid, quick.

speck, spot.

down, very soft feathers.

blow-pipe, a small tube.

natives, people born in the place.

vainly, without success.

tiny, very small.

foes, enemies.

fea-thers

ac-count

search-ing

yel-low

co-lours

beau-ty

mo-tion

hatch-ed

length

in-sects

o-range

ap-pear

Where do humming birds live? What do they feed upon? How do they keep themselves up in the air? How is the humming noise made? What is the noise like? What is the size of the nest of the humming bird? How large are the eggs? In what time are these eggs hatched? What is done with their skins? How do you know that the humming bird is brave?



THE CRESTED HUMMING BIRD

THE LION.

1. The lion is a noble-looking animal. He is found in Asia and Africa. The African lions are larger and stronger than those in Asia.

2. The lion belongs to the cat kind; that is, he is similar in form and structure to the cat.

3. He is about eight feet long, and his height is about four feet and a half. The lion is of a tawny, yellow colour, but some lions found in Persia are nearly black. The male lion has a fine mane. This grows longer and thicker as he becomes old.

4. The female lion is called a lioness. She is about one-fourth less in size than the male lion. Her form is more slender and graceful, and she has no mane. She is very fierce, and will defend her cubs with her life.

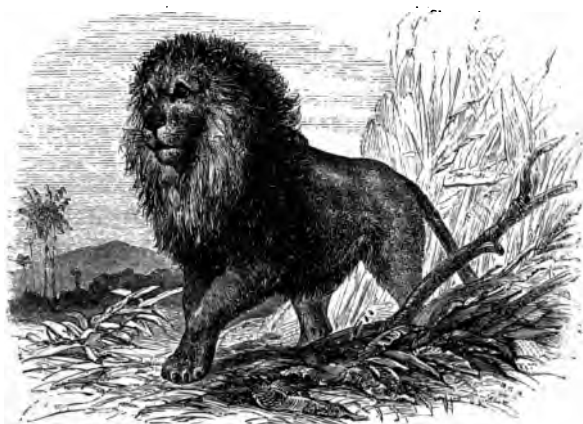
5. The lion seldom attacks any animal openly. During the day he lies asleep in some dark thicket in the forest. At night he comes out to seek his food.

6. He lies down in the long grass near a stream or pond of water, and waits until some animal comes down to drink.

7. As soon as he sees one drinking, he creeps slyly through the reeds. Then with a spring and a loud roar, he jumps on the back of his victim.

8. He seizes his prey by the neck, as a cat does a mouse, and shakes it until it is dead. If he misses his aim, he seldom runs after his prey. He goes quietly back, and lies in wait for another animal.

9. When he has seized the animal, he carries it off in his mouth to his den in the forest. He then feasts upon it as long as it lasts.



10. The strength of the lion is very great. One has been known to carry a horse in his mouth more than a mile from the spot, where he killed it. He often carries off young cattle, and has been seen to leap over a wall with one of them in his mouth.

11. The lion is very much afraid of man, and will not come near his dwelling-place, unless pressed by hunger. If one is known to be in the woods near a village, the men make a fire, and keep up a great noise all the night to drive him away.

12. The roar of the lion sounds at a distance like thunder. When cattle hear it, they rush about in great alarm.

13. If the lion is caught while young, he is very easily tamed. He is often taken about from town to town, in wild beast shows. The lion will perform many tricks at the command of his keeper, and will let him put his hand in his mouth.

14. In old times, lions were kept by our kings in the Tower of London.

similar, like.

thicket, a place where trees grow very close together.

prey, the lion's food.

den, the lion's home.

victim, the animal killed by the lion.

mane, the hair on the lion's neck.

struc-ture

strength

dwell-ing

sim-i-lar

slender

seiz-es

dis-tance

li-on-ess

grace-ful

taw-ny

car-ries

Af-ri-ca

In what countries are lions found? Which lions are the larger? What animal do you know that is very much like the lion? How does the lion catch his prey? What does he do with it when he has seized it? How do the people in countries where he lives frighten him away? Where are they kept in this country?

COLD WATER.

1. Drip, drip, drip, drip,
From the fountain's iron tip:
Dripping, dropping, never stopping,
Cooling many a thirsty lip,
Drip, drip, drip!

2. Drop, drop, drop, drop,
O the water from the fountain!
Dripping, dropping, never stopping,
On the hillside, on the mountain,
Drop, drop, drop!

3. Flow, flow, flow, flow,
Crystal water pure as snow,
Flowing lightly, shining brightly,
Blessing mortals as you go.
Flow, flow, flow.

4. Glide, glide, glide, glide,
In a torrent swift and wide,
Gliding, sweeping, mildly leaping
Water down the green hillside,
Glide, glide, glide.

5. Pour, pour, pour, pour,
Blessed water, more and more;
Rain-drops, dew-drops, not a few drops,
Sparkle bright for evermore.
Pour, pour, pour!

fountain, a spouting up of
water.
crystal, clear.
mortals, people.

torrent, rapid stream.
gliding, moving quietly.
sparkle, to shine.

thirst-y	flow-ing	cool-ing	drip-ping
mild-ly	shin-ing	bles-ing	drop-ping
light-ly	leap-ing	glid-ing	moun-tain
bright-ly	sweep-ing	stop-ping	ev-er-more

THE PEAR TREE.

1. Old Rupert sat at the close of the day, in the shade of a large pear tree, which stood before his house. His grandson was near him eating the ripe pears.

2. Then said the grandfather to him, "I will tell you how this tree came here. One evening, more than fifty years ago, I stood here when there was an empty space where this pear tree stands. I was complaining to a neighbour of my poverty. 'Oh!' said I, 'how contented should I be if I could only possess twenty pounds.'

3. "The neighbour, who was a wise man, said, 'That you can easily do if you will only set about it. See,' said he, 'there in the soil where you now stand are more than twenty pounds, if you can only get them.'

4. "At that time I was a foolish young man. The following night I dug the ground on that spot, but could not find a single shilling. In the morning the neighbour saw where I had been digging, and laughed heartily at me.

5. "'I see,' said he, 'you did not understand me. I will send you a young pear tree. Set it in the hole which you have dug, and after a year or two the shillings will soon begin to appear.'

6. "I planted the young tree. It grew and became what you now see it. The fine fruit, which it has borne year after year, has brought me in much more *than the twenty pounds.*"

ripe, fit to eat.
empty, vacant.

contented, satisfied.
possess, to own.

brought	grand-son	con-tent-ed	com-plain-ing
eat-ing	emp-ty	fol-low-ing	pov-er-ty
neigh-bour	pos-sess	un-der-stand	heart-i-ly

Where did Old Rupert sit at the close of the day?
Who sat with him? What did Rupert tell his grandson?
What did Rupert wish for? Where did his neighbour
tell him he would find the money? What did Rupert do?
Did he find the twenty pounds in the garden? What
did he plant in the hole?

THE DOVE AND THE BEE.

1. A dove upon a high green tree
Looked down and saw a struggling bee
Within the water swim;
The dove felt sorry for the bee,
And broke a small twig from the tree,
And let it down to him.
2. The bee soon crawled upon the twig,
Which, though it was not very big,
Still bore a leaf or two,
On which to spread out one by one
His dripping wings beneath the sun,
And warm his body through.

3. His drenched and dripping wings he spread,
 And rubbed his feet upon his head,
 And dried himself with care:
 He shook his wings, he jerked his thighs,
 He rubbed his antlers and his eyes,
 Then flew up in the air.

4. The dove sat cooing from her spray,
 A sportsman passing by that way,
 To shoot her surely planned;
 When lo! an angry bee came by;
 He dropped his gun—he gave a cry—
 The bee had stung his hand.

5. Now to a pine wood black as night
 The grateful dove has taken flight,
 Where, from the meadows sunny,
 The bee's loud murmurs reach her tree,
 And her soft cooings to the bee
 Are sweeter than his honey.

struggling, making efforts.

twig, small bit of a branch.

bore, had on it.

spray, small branch.

drenched, wet through.

antlers, horns.

cooing, noise made by the dove.

though

with-in

an-gry

mur-mur

through

wa-ter

drop-ped

be-neath

spread

sweet-er

rub-bed

mead-ow

dri-ed

sure-ly

crawl-ed

sports-man



LILY RAY.

1. One wintry night a few years ago, when the wind was blowing hard, and the rain pouring down in torrents, a gentleman happened to be passing a lonely cottage on his way home. He thought he saw something lying in the porchway.

2. On his going to see what it could be, he found a little girl fast asleep. He knew her to be the daughter of the man who lived in the cottage.

3. He gently shook her, and said, "Lily, awake." Lily awoke and looked up at him. He said, "Lily, you must not be sleeping here this cold wet night; get up and come to my home." Lily could not be induced to go with the gentleman.

4. Her father, who was a drunkard, lay in the cottage asleep. He had fastened the door from the inside when he entered, and Lily knew it was no use trying to awaken him to let her in.

5. Early in the morning, when the effects of the drink had partly left him, he opened the door. Poor Lily entered; he took little notice of her at first. Lily began at once to get everything ready for her father's breakfast.

6. He looked at her for some time, and then said, "What are you doing, Lily?" "Getting the breakfast ready," was the reply. "And whom are you getting the breakfast ready for?" said the father. "I am getting it for you," said Lily.

7. "And why are you getting the breakfast for me?" said he. "Because I love you, father," answered the child. With trembling limbs and unsteady voice, he said, "Love me! Do you mean to say you love me, your drunken father?" "Yes, father, I do, and I will always love you."

8. "Why do you love me?" "Because I have no one else to love, and because when mother lay dying she said to me, 'Lily, stand by your father and love him; keep loving him till he has got rid of that bad, wicked habit.'

9. "It seems when I lie down on my little couch at night, that mother comes and stands by me, saying, 'Keep on, Lily, keep on loving him, and don't give up.'" Throwing her arms around her father's neck, she said to him, "I will love you, whether you will let me or not, and I will keep on loving you to the end."

10. The father began to think how unworthy he was of such love. He made up his mind not to drink again. To Lily's great delight, she found that at length he was able to resist the temptation.

11. He is now a very respectable man, and very proud of his child. He is never tired of telling everybody how the great change came about.

lonely, alone.

induced, persuaded.

unsteady, not steady.

unworthy, not worthy.

resist, to check.

temptation, trial.

blow-ing porch-way

pour-ing tor-rents

dy-ing break-fast

shock-ing tremb-ling

be-cause a-wak-en

de-light ev-ery-thing

cot-tage gen-tle-man

daugh-ter re-spect-able

On what kind of a night did a gentleman pass the cottage? What did he find in the porchway? What did the gentleman say to her? Where was Lily's father? When Lily began to get her father's breakfast what did he say to her? What made this child love such a father? What effect had Lily's love upon her father?



THE PUZZLE TOY.

1. Dear Herbert Lee one sister had—
Kind, loving, little Nell;
And like all brothers who are good,
He loved that sister well.
2. He lent her all his story-books,
His pictures and his toys;
And tried, in every way he could,
To add to all her joys.
3. One day he said unto himself,
As Christmas-time drew nigh,
“A present I will give to Nell,—
What nice thing shall I buy?
4. “Yes! I will buy a puzzle-box—
I saw one yesterday;
I’ll go to dear mamma at once,
And ask her if I may.”
5. Herbert got leave, and off he went,
A happy-hearted boy;
He walked into the grand bazaar,
And bought the wondrous toy.
6. He took it home. His sister gazed
With bright astonished eyes:
“ ’Tis all in pieces, Herbert dear!
Each different in size!

7. "And some are red, and some are blue,
And some are brown, some green,
Oh, Herbert, 'tis the strangest toy
That ever I have seen!
8. "And here's a head! and there's a tail!
And here's a nose and ear!
And legs and arms and hats and shoes!
What is it, Herbert dear?"
9. "I'll put the pieces," he replied,
"Each in its proper place."
He did so, and a wondering smile
Spread over Nelly's face.
10. "Well, that is strange!" dear Nelly cried;
"Now what it is I know:
A picture—and a pretty one—
Of Wombwell's wild-beast show!"
11. He told her stories of the beasts,
Their habits and their food,
And tried to add to her delight,
As every brother should.

present, a gift.
bazaar, a shop.
gazed, looked at.
habits, ways.

wondrous, strange.
Wombwell, the name of
a person who had a wild-
beast show.

tir-ed	sis-ter	lov-ing	yes-ter-day
could	bro-thers	pic-tures	dif-fer-ent
nigh	walk-ed	him-self	won-der-ing
piec-es	strang-est	puz-zle	as-ton-ish-ed



VIEW IN CRETE.

A CLEVER TRICK.

1. A great man, who lived a long time ago, had to flee from his own land to an island called Crete, where the people were very greedy, and very fond of money.

2. This man took a great sum of money with him, for he was very rich. All those who lived in Crete knew how rich he was.

3. When he got there, he put some lead into long jars, and put a little gold and silver on the top. He then sent for the great men of the place, and said to them, "I have come to find a home here for a time, and I have brought with me all I have. I hope you will help me to take care of it."

4. He then gave these jars to them, and they all said they would do their best. But he filled some old jars with the money, and threw them into the yard in front of his house.

5. The men of the place, supposing they had got the jars containing the money, did take great care of them; but their care was to prevent the man from getting his own back, as they wished to keep it.

6. Now this was very wicked. But they did not get what they wanted. When the man was going away, these great but wicked men said, that they would not allow him to carry away those jars that they were taking such great care of. But no one thought about those old jars in the yard, or ever tried to prevent him taking them away.

7. After he had gone, these wicked men all stood round in a large ring, and began to open the jars that had been left. Of course they were all expecting to find a very great treasure.

8. Just think how foolish they all looked, when they found nothing inside, except bits of worthless lead. I hope they felt ashamed of themselves for being so greedy and wicked.

greedy, selfish.
expecting, hoping.

treasure, money.
clever, sharp.

greed-y	brought	wick-ed	worth-less
peo-ple	sup-pos-ing	ex-pect-ing	a-shamed
mon-ey	thought	trea-sure	con-tain-ing

To what place did this great man go? What did he take with him? What did he say to the men of Crete? How did the people in Crete treat this man? Why did they not get what they wanted?

THE NEST BUILDERS.

1. Watch those little builders
Working both together,
With wool, and hay, and moss, and sticks,
And down, and many a feather.
2. A beautiful and cosy home
The two will soon complete,
In which to rear their family,
And teach them songs so sweet.
3. Now, who would rob the pretty birds
And stay their happy song?
There surely is no little child,
But knows that would be wrong.
4. Oh! pity and protect them—
Remember God in heaven
Marks how we treat His creatures,
Which He to us has given.





THE CROCODILE.

1. The crocodile is found on the banks of the Ganges, the Nile, and other rivers of Asia and Africa. Although it grows to a great size, it comes from an egg about as large as that of a goose. The eggs are laid by the female in the sand by the river's brink, and are carefully covered up by her, in order that they may be hatched by the heat of the sun. These eggs are sought after by many creatures, and are greedily consumed.

2. If it were not for this, the number of these monsters would be so great, that the countries in which they are found would be soon over-run by them. As it is, the rivers literally swarm with them. They can be seen floating like logs of wood on the surface, or lying concealed near the edge, and on the approach of man or beast. When they see their victim, they plunge

with it to the bottom of the river, where they remain until its life is extinct.

3. It happens now and then, that the crocodile meets with a foe nearly its match. The tiger often visits the river to drink. The crocodile sometimes seizes him, but in a moment the tiger bounds round and attacks its eyes with his claws, sometimes so successfully that he escapes. He is oftener dragged into the water, where, after struggling furiously for a while, he is drowned.

4. A soldier was once bathing, and was pursued by a crocodile. As he was endeavouring to escape to the bank, a tiger, which had been concealed in the reeds, sprang at him, but was caught by the jaws of the crocodile, which had been open to receive the man. The soldier thus happily escaped.

5. As this reptile is so dangerous, various methods are used to kill it. One method is by plunging a harpoon into its back with great force, so that it pierces the flesh to the depth of two or three inches. The barb becomes firmly fixed, and notwithstanding the furious struggles of the animal, it is dragged to the shore and killed.

6. Another method is to bait a large iron hook with meat, which the crocodile greedily swallows. As soon as it finds the hook in its throat, it plunges and struggles, lashing the water into foam with its tail. It is dragged to the shore, and soon killed.

7. In some of the rivers of Africa the negroes are bold enough to attack it single-handed. Armed with a dagger, they plunge into the water, and *diving beneath the animal*, stab it in the belly. This

is dangerous sport, sometimes proving fatal to the man. If by any mishap he should lose his dagger, his only chance of escape is to force his thumbs into its eyes, and so produce great pain and blindness.

8. Many now fall victims to the rifle, the sportsman firing at the eye, and the bullet, when properly aimed, makes short work with the game. In some parts the flesh of the crocodile is much esteemed as food by the people.

9. It is remarked, as a curious fact, that the crocodile is attended by a bird called the zic-zac. An ancient writer tells us that, as the crocodile lives for the most part in the water, its mouth gets filled with some kinds of insects. When it comes on shore it opens its mouth; the bird enters and swallows the insects, thus rendering it very good service.

10. The crocodile is not without its uses in nature. As hyenas and vultures clear the land of dead bodies, so the crocodiles clear the rivers of the dead bodies of animals, which would otherwise pollute their waters.

Nile, a large river in Africa.
monsters, large animals.
literally, actually.
concealed, hidden.
extinct, died out.
furiously, madly.
pursued, followed.
endeavouring, trying.

various, different.
methods, plans.
lashing, beating.
fatal, ending in death.
mishap, accident.
esteemed, valued.
ancient, old.
pollute, poison.

al-though	seiz-ed	re-ceive	greed-i-ly
crea-tures	vic-tim	es-cap-ed	at-tack
cro-co-dile	suc-cess-ful-ly	har-poon	writ-er
a-wait-ing	strug-gling	pierc-es	ren-der-ing

Where is the crocodile found? What is the size of a crocodile's egg? What do the crocodiles do when they have seized their victim? What does the tiger do when the crocodile seizes it? How did the soldier escape from the crocodile? How deep does the harpoon pierce the flesh of the crocodile? In what part of the body do the negroes stab it? If the negro should lose his dagger what does he then do? At what part of the body does the sportsman aim? What is the name of the bird which attends the crocodile? Of what use are crocodiles?

THE CROCODILE'S FRIEND.

1. The little bird which we have called the zic-zac is said to be the crocodile's friend, by giving warning of approaching danger. A traveller tells us what he saw, in the following words:—

“I saw a long way off a large crocodile, from twelve to fifteen feet long, lying asleep under a perpendicular bank about ten feet high, on the margin of a river.

2. “I stopped the boat at some distance, and noting the place as well as I could, I landed, and came down cautiously to the top of the bank, where, with my gun, I made sure of my ugly game. In my imagination, I had already cut his head off, and was considering whether it should be stuffed with its mouth open or shut.

3. “I peeped over the bank; there he was within ten feet of my rifle. I was on the point of firing at *its eye*, when I observed that he was attended by

a bird called the zic-zac. This bird is of a grayish colour, and as large as a pigeon.

4. "The bird was walking up and down close to the crocodile's nose. I suppose I moved, for it suddenly saw me, and instead of flying away, as birds generally do, it jumped up about a foot from the ground, screamed 'zic-zac, zic-zac,' with all the power of its voice, and dashed itself against the crocodile's face two or three times.

5. "The great beast started up, and immediately spying its danger, made a jump into the air. Dashing into the water with a splash, which covered me with mud, he dived into the river and disappeared. The Arabs call this bird by a name which means "the cousin of the crocodile."

perpendicular, upright.

margin, the side.

noting, taking notice.

imagination, thoughts.

observed, saw.

spying, seeing.

ap-proach-ing

stuff-ed

gen-er-al-ly

A-rabs

tra-vel-ler

at-tend-ed

im-me-di-ate-ly

cous-in

cau-tious-ly

gray-ish

dan-ger

cro-co-dile

Why is the zic-zac said to be the crocodile's friend? Where did a traveller once see a crocodile lying? Where did he stop his boat? How did he come to the top of the bank? How near was he to the crocodile? What bird was close by? How large was this bird? What did the bird do when he saw the traveller? What did the great beast then do? What do the Arabs call this bird?





A BOAT SONG.

1. The moon shines bright,
And the bark bounds light
As the stag bounds o'er the lea;
We love the strife
Of the sailor's life,
And we love our dark blue sea.
2. Now high, now low,
To the depths we go,
Now rise to the surge again;
We make a track
On the Ocean's back,
And play with his hoary mane.
3. Fearless we face
The storm in its chase,
When the dark clouds fly before it;

And meet the shock
Of the fierce Siroc,
Though death breathes hotly o'er it.

4. The landsman may quail
At the shout of the gale,
Which peril's the sailor's joy;
But wild as the waves,
Which his vessel braves,
Is the lot of the sailor boy.

bark, a small ship.
lea, grass-land.
surge, billow.
siroc, the sirocco, a burn-
ing wind which blows
from Africa.

track, a path.
hoary mane, the white
froth of the wave.
quail, lose courage.
peril, danger.
gale, strong wind.

It-al-i-an	o-cean	lands-man	ves-sel
sail-ors	fear-less	waves	braves

THE INDIAN BOA.

1. This monster snake lives in the hot, steaming swamps, and in the dark, marshy forests of India and other lands. There it lurks, half floating in the water, half stretched upon the land, or partly coiled around some rugged trunk of a tree.

2. Patiently it waits, and then darts on its victim, rapid as an arrow from a bow. It throws its body into folds or knots around that of its prey so quickly, that the eye can scarcely follow the action. Its strength is so great, that the bones of an ox snap *beneath its efforts*.

3. Having crushed its prey into a shapeless mass, it slowly untwines its length, raises its head aloft, the tongue moving rapidly to and fro, while the jaws prepare to swallow its prey. The work proceeds slowly. When the whole of its prey is swallowed, the boa stretches itself at full length, or coils itself up in a heap. It then sinks into a stupor for two or three weeks together.

4. In this state the boa is defenceless, and may be easily killed. The natives then take the opportunity to destroy it. In Africa, where this kind of serpent is also found, the negroes consider the flesh a dainty.

5. This great reptile seizes the swift deer as it bounds among the trees, the monkey as it springs among the branches, and even the fish as they pass through the water.

6. It climbs and darts along the ground with ease. It has become an object of horror to the people in whose lands it is found. They fall down before it and worship it, even offering up their children to satisfy its supposed anger, and obtain its favour.

7. The length of a full-grown boa is about thirty feet, though it has been said that some have been found much longer. We may be thankful that the boa is not found in England, and that we can walk through our woods and forests without fear.

monster, very large
swamps, low ground
filled with water.

rugged, rough.
horror, fear
obtain, get.

lurks, hides.**coiled**, wound into rings.**favour**, good-will.**dainty**, nice.

In-di-an

vic-tim

stu-por

seiz-es

steam-ing

ar-row

de-fence-less

ob-jects

float-ing

scarce-ly

op-por-tu-ni-ty

of-fer-ing

stretch-ed

ef-forts

ne-groes

thank-ful

pa-tient-ly

swal-low

con-sid-er

for-ests

Where does the boa live? How does it wait for its victim? What is its strength? What does the boa do after swallowing its prey? How long does it sleep? Where is the boa eaten as a dainty dish? How does it seize the deer? How do the people look upon it where it is found? Why do they offer up their children to it? What is the length of a full-grown boa?

THE CLOCK AND THE SUN-DIAL.

A FABLE.

1. In an old church tower there was a clock, which served for many years to repeat the hours and point out the time. Just under this clock was a sun-dial, which also served to point out the time of day when the sun shone.

2. One cloudy forenoon the clock said to the dial, "What mean slavery you undergo! You cannot tell the hour unless the sun pleases to inform you. Half the day is already past, and you do not know what o'clock it is. I can tell the hour at any time, and would not be in such a dependent state as you are in for the world. Night and day are both alike to me. It is *now* twelve o'clock."

3. Just as the clock left off speaking, the sun shone out with great brightness from the cloud, and showed the exact time of day. It was half-past twelve o'clock.

4. The dial then replied to the clock, "You may now perceive that boasting is not good, for you see you are wrong. It is better to be under direction, and follow truth, than be one's own guide and go wrong. Your freedom has only led you to err. What you call slavery in my case, is the only method of being exactly in the right.

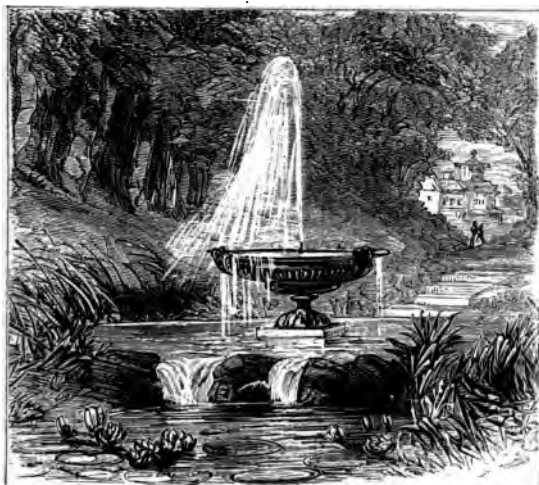
5. "You see from this, that we should all of us keep our stations, and depend upon one another. I depend upon the sun, and you depend upon me. If I did not serve to regulate your motions, you would be constantly going wrong."

repeat, strike the hours.
forenoon, before twelve
 o'clock at noon.
perceive, see.

dial, an instrument to tell
 the time by the sun.
constantly, often.
err, make a mistake.

tow-er	serv-ed	boast-ing	reg-u-late
show-ed	bright-ness	meth-od	con-stant-ly
in-form	ex-act	de-pend	de-pend-ent

Where was the clock which is mentioned in this fable? Where was the sun-dial? What did the clock say to the dial? When the clock said it was twelve o'clock, what time did the sun show on the dial? What did the dial say to the clock? What regulates the clock? What gives time to the dial?



THE FOUNTAIN.

1. Into the sunshine
Full of the light,
Leaping and flashing
From noon till night;
2. Into the moonlight
Whiter than snow,
Waving so flower-like,
When the winds blow.
3. Into the starlight
Rushing in spray;
Happy at midnight,
Happy by day!

4. Ever in motion,
Blithesome and cheery,
Still climbing heavenward,
Never a-weary.
5. Glad of all weathers,
Still seeming best,
Upward or onward,
Motion thy rest;
6. Full of a nature
Nothing can tame,
Changed every moment,
Ever the same.
7. Ceaseless aspiring,
Ceaseless content,
Darkness or sunshine
Thy element.
8. Glorious fountain,
Let my heart be
Fresh, changeful, constant,
Upward like thee.

waving, moving like
waves.
spray, fine water-drops.
blithesome, merry.
heavenward, towards
heaven.

ceaseless, never stopping.
aspiring, looking upward.
changeful, always chang-
ing.
constant, without change.

sun-shine	moon-light	mo-tion	wea-thers
leap-ing	flow-er-like	blithe-some	cease-less
<i>flash-ing</i>	mid-night	climb-ing	glo-ri-ous

THE OSTRICH.

1. Far away in Africa, where there is a burning sun overhead, with little else than sand under foot—in waste and desert places, where few animals can live—is to be found a strange, large bird, six or eight feet in height, which from its fancied resemblance to the camel is sometimes called the “camel-bird.” This strange bird is called an ostrich.

2. It has a long, narrow neck, almost bare of feathers. The wings are small, and cannot be used for flying, but they help it to run. Its legs are long and very strong. The feet, which have but two toes, are something like a camel's, and can bear great fatigue. Its colour is a rusty black, with white wings and tail-feathers.

3. The feathers of the ostrich are very beautiful, and are carefully preserved by the hunters, and sent to Europe and to America, where they are dyed and used to trim bonnets and hats.

4. The ostrich feeds on the tops of such plants as grow in the desert, and it can go a long time without water. Its cry sounds, at a distance, so much like that of the lion, that it is often mistaken for one.

5. Ostriches go about in small flocks. The females lay their eggs in one nest, each laying from ten to twelve. During the day they take turns in sitting upon them, while the male takes this duty at night.

He continues to watch over the young birds for some time after they are hatched, and to protect them from jackals, tiger-cats, and other enemies. These animals are sometimes found lying dead near the nest, having been killed by one stroke from the foot of this powerful bird.

6. Ostrich eggs are very good to eat, and one of them is equal to twenty-four hens' eggs. They are about six inches in length, twelve in circumference, and weigh from three to four pounds.

7. This bird can run faster than the quickest horse. The Arabs, however, hunt it, and manage to catch it. When the hunter has started the bird, he puts his horse into a gentle gallop, so as to keep the ostrich in sight without coming near enough to frighten it, and set it running at full speed. Finding itself pursued, it begins to run slowly at first. It does not run in a straight line, but in a circle, while the hunters, crossing the circle or running in a smaller circle, keep near the bird and do not tire their horses.

8. This chase is often kept up for a day or two, while the hunters take turns to rest their horses. The ostrich at last becomes tired out and half starved, and finding it impossible to escape, tries to hide itself in some thicket, or buries its head in the sand, foolishly believing because it cannot see, that it cannot be seen. The hunters then rush at full speed and easily kill the bird, taking care that no blood is allowed to get on the feathers.

desert, sandy district.
preserved, taken care of.
protect, defend.
powerful, very strong.

circumference, all round.
manage, succeed.
pursued, chased.
allowed, permitted.

burn-ing an-i-mals
 o-ver-head some-times
 des-ert pre-serv-ed

pro-TECT en-e-mies
 pow-er-ful man-age
 con-tin-ues pur-su-ed

Where are ostriches found? In what sort of places?
 What is the height of the ostrich? What sort of wings
 has it? What is its colour? What colour are the wings?
 How many eggs does the female lay? Who takes care of
 the eggs at night? How large is the egg of the ostrich?
 What are its feathers used for? How fast can this bird
 run? How is it caught?



THE FOX AND THE BRAMBLE.

A FABLE.

1. An old fox, closely pursued by a pack of hounds, ran under the covert of a bramble. He rejoiced in this shelter, and for a while was very happy. On trying to stir, however, he found he was wounded by thorns on every side.

2. Although he was suffering pain, he was afraid to leave the friendly briar, as the hounds were not far off, and forbore to complain. He lay still, and comforted himself with thinking that no happiness is perfect, and that good and evil are mixed, and both flow from the same fountain.

3. "These briars indeed," said he, "will tear my skin a little, yet they keep off the dogs. For the sake of the good, let me bear the evil with patience. Each bitter has its sweet, and these brambles, though they wound my flesh, preserve my life from danger."

4. We should bear with patience a small evil, when it is connected with a greater good.

pursued, chased.

pack, a number.

covert, shelter.

bramble, a thorn bush.

rejoiced, was glad.

complain, to grumble.

though close-ly

dan-ger shel-ter

friend-ly wound-ed

foun-tain suf-fer-ing

pa-tience com-fort-ed

pre-serve con-nect-ed

Why did the fox run under the bramble? What happened to him when he tried to stir? Why did he not leave the bramble? What did he think to himself? *When should we prefer to bear a smaller evil?*

YOUTH AND MAY.

1. Oh! brightly shines the sun to-day,
 And gay the birds are singing;
 And sweetly bloom the flowers of May,
 Along the hedgerows springing;
 The honey-bee lights down and pries
 Into the buds just bursting;
 And violets ope their soft blue eyes
 For pearly dew-drops thirsting.
2. Then haste with me, 'tis morning's prime—
 The hours like birds are flying;
 And soon will come the evening time
 When light and flowers are dying:
 To-morrow may not roses bring,
 Nor sunbeams sweetly playing;
 The birds may then forget to sing,
 And we to go a-Maying.
3. Oh! youth is like a glad May-day,
 Its brightness all pervading;
 Then use it well, 'twill pass away,
 The hours like blossoms fading;
 The present moments are divine,
 Undimmed by care or sorrows;
 To-day's sweet sun will always shine
 Far brighter than to-morrow's.

pries, peeps.

ope, open.

morning's prime, first
 hours of the morning.

pervading, spreading
 through.

divine, holy.

undimmed, not darkened.

bright-ly	vi-o-lets	dy-ing	pres-ent
hedge-rows	pearl-y	sun-beams	mo-ment
spring-ing	thirst-ing	blos-soms	sor-rows
burst-ing	fly-ing	fad-ing	bright-er



A CONTENTED FARMER.

1. Once upon a time, Frederick, King of Prussia, surnamed "Old Fritz," took a ride, and saw an old farmer ploughing his land by the wayside, cheerily singing his melody.

"You must be well off, old man," said the king. "Does this land belong to you, on which you are working so hard?"

2. "No, sir," replied the farmer, who knew not

that it was the king; "I am not so rich as that: I plough for wages."

"How much do you get a day?" asked the king.

"Eight groschen," said the farmer.

3. "This is not much," replied the king; "can you get along with this?"

"Yes; and have something left."

"How is that?"

4. The farmer smiled, and said, "Well, if I must tell you, two groschen are for myself and wife, with two I pay my old debts, two I lend, and two I give away for the Lord's sake."

"This is a mystery which I cannot solve," replied the king.

5. "Then I will solve it for you," said the farmer. "I have two old parents at home who kept me when I was weak and needed help; and now that they are weak and need help I keep them. This is my debt, towards which I pay two groschen a day. The third pair of groschen, which I lend, I spend for my children, that they may receive Christian instruction. This will come handy to me and my wife when we get old. With the last two groschen I maintain two sick sisters. This I give for the Lord's sake."

6. The king, well pleased with his answer, said, "Bravely spoken, old man. Now I will also give you something to guess. Have you ever seen me before?"

"Never," said the farmer.

7. "In less than five minutes you shall see me fifty

times, and carry in your pocket fifty of my likenesses."

"This is a riddle which I cannot unravel," said the farmer.

8. "Then I will do it for you," replied the king. Thrusting his hand into his pocket, and counting fifty brand new gold pieces into his hand, stamped with his royal likeness, he said to the astonished farmer, who knew not what was coming, "The coin is genuine, for it also comes from our Lord God, and I am his paymaster. I bid you good day."

melody, air of a tune.

groschen, a coin equal to
about five farthings.

maintain, support.

unravel, find out.

thrusting, putting.

astonished, surprised.

genuine, real.

sur-nam-ed

sing-ing

mys-te-ry

un-ra-vel

gro-schen

mel-od-y

in-struc-tion

thrust-ing

plough-ing

re-plied

main-tain

gen-u-ine

What was the king surnamed? What country was he king of? What was the farmer doing? What did he plough for? How much did he get a day? What did he mean by paying debts? What did he do for the Lord's sake? How much did the king give him? Where did the king say it came from?



THE EIDER DUCK.

1. Far away in the icy North—in Labrador and Greenland, in Iceland and Norway—and other cold



countries, lives this bird, so noted for the soft down it gives us. There it lays its eggs and hatches its young. You may often see a mother bird taking her ducklings into the chilly

waters, from which the brief Northern summer has melted off the ice. She is going to feed them on the shell-fish and sea-urchins that she can pick up from the edges of rocks and in shallow places.

2. The eider ducks build their nests of fine weeds and mosses, on the ground or among rocks, wherever they can find a little hollow. These nests are often so close together that a man can hardly walk among them without stepping on the eggs.

3. The breasts of these birds are covered thickly with the softest down. As soon as they have laid their eggs, they pluck out enough of this down to cover them warmly, for there is not sufficient heat in their bodies to hatch the eggs without help from the down. They have, besides, to leave their nests sometimes to get food, and then if it were not for the covering of down, the eggs would be frozen.

4. The people who live in the Northern countries, where these ducks make their nests and hatch their young, know about these down-covered eggs, and as soon as they find them well wrapped up, take away both the eggs and the down. Then the mother-bird lays another nest full of eggs, and a second time strips the down from her breast to cover them and keep them warm.

5. A second time the eggs and down are taken away. Poor bird! Still she is not discouraged, and lays a third nest full of eggs; but now she has no more down with which to protect them from the cold. What is to be done? Will the eggs be frozen? Not so; for now the male bird comes and plucks the downy treasures from his breast, and lays them over the eggs. This time the down-gatherers leave the nest unharmed, so that a brood of ducks may be hatched that will lay eggs and supply down another year.

6. Each nest supplies about half a pound of down, with which the people of Germany and northern Europe stuff bed-coverings which are used in winter instead of blankets. This eider down is so very light that three ounces of it will fill a hat.

chilly, cold.

shallow, not deep.

sufficient, enough.

discouraged, prevented.

gatherers, collectors.

treasures, riches.

coun-tries

hatch-es

duck-lings

chil-ly

north-ern

sum-mer

fea-thers

com-fort-able

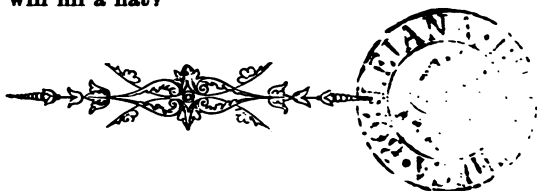
hap-py

gath-er-ers

trea-sures

pro-tect

Where does the eider duck live? What is it noted for? Where does it build its nest? How does it protect the eggs from cold? What part of the body is covered with down? How often will it lay eggs? Where does the down come from to cover them at last? How much down will one nest supply? What is done with it? How much will fill a hat?



OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

1. Over and over again,
 No matter which way I turn,
I always find in the Book of Life
 Some lesson I have to learn.
I must take my turn at the mill,
 I must grind out the golden grain,
I must work at my task with a resolute will
 Over and over again.

2. We cannot measure the need
 Of even the tiniest flower,
Nor check the flow of the golden sands
 That run through a single hour.
But the morning dews must fall,
 And the sun and the summer rain
Must do their part, and perform it all
 Over and over again.

3. Over and over again

The brook through the meadow flows,
And over and over again

The ponderous mill-wheel goes,
One doing will not suffice,

Though doing be not in vain,
And a blessing, failing us once or twice,
May come if we try again.

4. The path that has once been trod

Is never so rough to the feet;
And the lesson we once have learned
Is never so hard to repeat.

Though sorrowful tears may fall,
And the heart to its depth be driven
With storm and tempest, we need them all
To render us meet for heaven.

golden, like gold.

resolute, firm.

tiniest, the smallest.

perform, to do well.

meadow, a field.

ponderous, heavy

suffice, be enough.

tempest, wind and rain.

mat-ter

mea-sure

sum-mer

suf-fice

les-son

ti-ni-est

mead-ow

fail-ing

res-o-lute

morn-ing

pon-der-ous

sor-row-ful





A LIVING LIGHTHOUSE.

1. Polly Hope had lost her mother a long time before the stormy night about which I am going to tell you. The girl lived by the sea-side with her father, a poor fisherman, who was sometimes days and nights away, trying to catch fish for the support of himself and his child.

2. At such times Polly was all alone in the cottage, save when her aunt, who lived a mile off, came to see her and to teach her how to make her father's blue shirts, or when the little girl herself was asked to take tea with her aunt.

3. Polly *kept the cottage* very clean and tidy, be-

cause her father liked to see his home look nice. She often put down her book of tales that she might have everything well dusted, and keep the tins over the fireplace as bright as new silver. She loved her father very much, so it was no wonder that she should thus strive to please him.

4. On the morning of the New-Year the wind began to blow in fearful gusts. The snow, which had fallen during the night, though frozen hard by the cold when daylight came, was whirled high from the ground in some places. Tom Hope, the father of Polly, had come back in his boat many hours before the wind rose. His daughter felt happy in the thought that the huge waves, which she could hear beating on the rocks near the cottage, could do no harm to her only parent.

5. All that day the fisherman worked at mending his nets, and at a pair of canvas trousers he was making. When night was coming on, he put his red woollen cap on his head, and going outside, gave a long look towards the sea, where he could just catch sight of a large ship struggling amid the distant waves.

6. A few hours after, when Polly was lighting her candle to go to bed, her father again went out on the cliff where his cottage stood. He soon came back, and in great haste lit a lantern.

7. "Polly, my child," he called out, "there's a big ship getting close on the rocks. I have seen her lights, and she is sure to be knocked to pieces if once she touches these frightful rocks. Put something over your head and shoulders, and be quick about it, my

girl. I want you to go out and hold this lantern as a warning, while I run to the village for help."

8. "But it is so dark and cold outside," pleaded Polly, as she looked at her snug little bed.

"Yes; yes," said her father, "too dark for them on board to see the rocks. If you don't do as I tell you many a poor fellow in that ship will lose his life to-night."

9. When Polly heard this, she at once got ready to face the bitter cold.

"We had better leave by the side door, little lass, as it has a bit of shelter from this wind," he said, as he took her hand.

"I'll show you where to stand on the cliff. You must promise me to stay there, cold as it is, till I get back."

10. Polly made the promise, and then she asked if she was to hold up the lantern all the time he was away.

"That you must," said her father, "for I want the men on board the ship to see the light of your lantern, and know by it that they are too near the land to be safe."

11. They went to the door, and stood for a minute on the step, which was white with snow. "The lights there belong to the ship," he went on, "and they seem nearer to the rocks than they were ten minutes since."

Polly found it very cold, dark, and stormy on the cliff, though her father had so placed her that she got a little shelter from the fierce wind.

12. Once or twice she felt the cold in her hands and feet so great, that she thought of running home at once to the cottage fire. But she knew very well, that if she did, her father would not be pleased, even though she might come back with the lantern in a few minutes.

13. It was a hard struggle, and the tears began to run down her cheeks, so much did the cold give her pain. She did not forget what her father had said, and she held out bravely till he came back with the good news that the men in the ship had, no doubt, seen the lantern, for the ship had turned away, and was now nearly safe.

14. "You have been as good as a lighthouse, Polly," he said as he kissed her cold cheek, and led her home.

gusts, sudden blasts
of wind.

huge, large.

cliff, a high steep rock.

struggle, fight.

canvas, coarse cloth.

sup-port

daugh-ter

strug-gling

fierce

cot-tage

can-vas

knock-ed

brave-ly

whirl-ed

trou-sers

lan-tern

doubt

Where did Polly Hope live? What was her father? What did her aunt teach her? How did Polly keep the cottage? Why? What was Polly's father doing on New Year's Day? What did he say to Polly after he had lighted the lantern? What promise did she make to her father? Why was she to hold the lantern so long? What did Polly do when she felt so cold? What did her father call her? How did he reward her?



THE BOY AND THE BUTTERFLY.

1. "What are those pretty yellow things
That look like little flowers with wings?
They dance about this way and that—
I'll try to catch one in my hat.
2. "Now I shall have it—no, 'tis gone;
I'll run a little farther on.
Now, *now*, I'll have you, pretty thing!
No! see it yonder on the wing!
3. "It seems resolved to get away;
But I will at a distance stay
Until it settles on a flower,
And *then* 'twill be within my power.

4. "Its pretty glancing wings move slower,
Its little body settles lower;
And now, 'tis on a clover top:
This time I'll surely have you—*pop!*"
5. "And now, my little butterfly,
I've got you, and you need not try
To get away. I'll take a peep,
To see if snug and still you keep.
6. "But here's no butterfly! Oh, me!
Where can the little truant be?
I see it now, far, far away,
Dancing along so light and gay,
As if to mock me; *surely* I
Can catch a silly butterfly?"
7. He ran, he snatched with eager clasp—
'Twas caught, and died within his grasp.
He looked upon his act with shame,
And bitterly himself did blame;
Then dropped the little lifeless thing,
And to his home went sorrowing.

resolved, determined.

settles, rests.

glancing, shining.

truant, runaway.

snatched, seized violently.

eager, quick.

grasp, clutch of the hand.

bitterly, severely.

pret-ty

yel-low

far-ther

yon-der

re-solv-ed

dis-tance

set-tles

tru-ant

sure-ly

snatch-ed

ea-ger

bit-ter-ly

THE COLUMBINE AND THE LILY.

A FABLE.

1. A wild columbine and a lily of the valley met one day in a little vase.

"I am glad to meet you," said the columbine. "We look well together. Your white flowers make me look the brighter, and my red bells make you look the whiter."

2. "Is it so?" said the lily. "I never thought of it before."

"You have a delightful perfume," continued the columbine. "I have none; but there is honey in my cells, and I droop my head gracefully. Don't you think so?"

3. "I do," replied the lily; "but where did you grow? Not in our garden, surely."

"O, no," said the columbine, "among the rocks, where the sun lies warm, I hang out my coral bells, and the young spring breezes come and frolic with me. The delicate fern grows by my side, and the wild birds sing to me all day long."

4. "I seem to be idle; but no, I am busy storing away honey for my friends, and when it is ready they come and take it with their slender bills. Here comes one of them now," continued she, in a flutter of delight, as a humming-bird flew in at the open window. "I didn't think they would know where to find me."

5. "Any honey, any honey?" said the humming-bird.

"Yes," said the columbine. "Help yourself."

But just as the humming-bird began to help himself, the columbine, having no roots to hold on by, went topsy-turvy out of the vase, and fell on the table.

6. "Poor thing! What a pity!" said the lily, as she looked over the edge of the vase.

"O, dear, I shall wither away unless some one helps me," said the columbine.

7. "It is my fault, it is my fault," said the humming-bird, and he buzzed about like a crazy creature. A spider came out of his web in the corner to see what was the matter. "Help her," said the humming-bird, "she'll wither away."

8. "I will throw her a rope," said the spider, "she can come up hand over hand."

Then he threw her a silken rope, but she could not come up hand over hand; so at last the spider was obliged to come down and wind the rope around her leaves, and try to pull her up. But she was too heavy for him, heavier than the largest fly he ever had to deal with.

9. "Lend us a hand here," said he to the humming-bird.

So the humming-bird tried to help him; but he was so excited that he nipped off the rope with his bill, and down fell the poor columbine, worse off than ever.

10. "Leave me," said she faintly. "There is no help for it."

Then a little girl came dancing into the room.

When she came in, the humming-bird flew out of the window again in a fright, and the spider hauled in his rope and went back to his web. The poor columbine was deserted. The little girl saw her and took her up.

11. "The beautiful columbine has fallen out of the vase, and is fading," said she. "I must press it, and then it will be bright and handsome for a long time."

So she carried it away and put it carefully in her book; but the lily staid in the vase till her day was over, and then withered and was thrown away.

delightful, pleasant.

delicate, tender.

gracefully, prettily.

breezes, gentle winds.

wither, fade away.

obliged, compelled.

co-lum-bine

de-light-ful

gar-den

buz-zed

val-ley

del-i-cate

breez-es

crea-ture

to-ge-ther

grace-ful-ly

hum-ming

heav-i-er

Where did the columbine and lily meet? Which of them spoke first? Which had white flowers? What was the colour of the other? What grew beside the columbine? Which of the two flowers had perfume? What came in at the open window? Which fell out of the vase? What did the columbine say? How did the spider try to help her? Who assisted the spider? What did the little girl do? What became of the lily?





SUNNY DAYS.

1. O sunny days! O sunny days!
We welcome you again;
For grace and beauty come with you,
And follow in your train.
The glory of your presence thrills
With joy's divinest powers;
And all the earth to meet your smiles
Puts on her robe of flowers.
2. The lark goes warbling unto God
The love which you inspire;
The thrush pours forth his stream of song,
And trills his heart's desire.

From every bush, from every tree,
 Resounds the song of praise,
 Which all creation sings to you—
 O bright and sunny days.

3. The insects loud their pleasures buzz,
 The murmuring rills reply;
 The breezes kiss the fragrant flowers,
 And trees responsive sigh.
 No voice is still—all things unite
 In one rich song of praise;
 And more than all do we rejoice
 Once more in sunny days.

thrills , causes pleasant feelings.	resounds , sounds again.
warbling , singing sweetly.	fragrant , sweet smelling.
trills , sings out.	responsive , in answer.
	rejoice , to be glad.

sun-ny	warb-ling	plea-sures	re-spons-ive
wel-come	re-sounds	mur-mur-ing	re-joice
beau-ty	cre-a-tion	in-sects	fra-grant

"TO-MORROW."

1. "I shall work in my field to-morrow," said John. "I must not lose time, because the season advances, and if I neglect to cultivate my land, I shall have no wheat, and consequently no bread."

2. The next day John was up with the dawn, and his first thought was of his plough. He was about to set himself to his task in good earnest when

one of his friends called to invite him to a family dinner.

3. John hesitated at first, but, after thinking the matter over, he said to himself, "A day sooner or later is of no consequence to my business, and a day of pleasure lost, is lost for ever." So he went to his friend's dinner.

4. The following day he was unfit for work, as he



had eaten a little too much, and had a headache. "To-morrow I will make up for this," said he to himself. The morrow came, but it rained, and John was unable to set out on his day's work.

5. The next day was fine, the sun shone brightly, and John felt full of courage; unhappily, however, *his horse* was sick in the stable. The succeeding

day was a holiday, and, of course, he could not think of giving himself up to work. A new week begins, and in a week one can do a great deal.

6. He commenced by going to a fair in the neighbourhood. He had never missed going there, for it was the finest fair for ten miles round. He went afterwards to the wedding of one of his most intimate relatives. In short, he managed things so well, that when he began to till his field, the season for sowing was past, and when harvest time came he had nothing to reap.

7. When you have something to do, do it at once, for if you are master of the present, you are not of the future, and he who is constantly putting off his affairs until *to-morrow*, runs great risk of not finishing anything.

advances , goes forward.	hesitated , held back.
cultivate , dig and plant.	succeeded , the next.
consequently , therefore.	constantly , always.

to-mor-row	cul-ti-vate	fam-i-ly	head-ache
sea-son	con-se-quent-ly	bus-i-ness	cour-age
ad-vanc-es	earn-est	plea-sure	in-ti-mate

What did John say? Why should he cultivate his land at once? What time did he get up next day? What did he think of first? Who called upon him? What did he call for? What did John do? What was the matter with him the day after? What happened the day after that? How did he begin the next week? Where did he go after the fair? What had he to reap in harvest time? What are you not master of?

ONLY A PIN.

1. An overseer, in a calico mill, found a pin which cost the owners nearly one hundred pounds.

"Was it stolen?" asked little Susan. "I suppose it must have been very handsome. Was it a diamond pin!"

2. "Oh, no, my dear!" said her father, "not by any means. It was just such a pin as people buy every day, and use without stint. Here is one upon my coat."

3. "Such a pin as *that*, to cost nearly one hundred pounds!" exclaimed her brother John. "I don't believe it."

4. "But father says, it is a *true* story," interposed Susan.

"Yes, I know it to be true; and this is the way the pin happened to cost so much," said their father.

5. "You know that calicoes, after they are printed, and washed and dried, are smoothed by being passed over heated rollers. Well, by some mischance a pin dropped so as to lie upon the principal roller, and indeed became wedged into it, the head standing out a little over the surface.

6. "Over and over went the roller, and round and round went the cloth, winding at length upon another roller, until the piece was measured off. Then another piece began to be dried and wound, and so on until one hundred pieces had been counted off. These were not examined immediately, but *removed* from the machinery and laid aside.

7. "When at length they came to be inspected, it was found that there were holes in every piece throughout the web, and only three quarters of a yard apart. Now in every piece there were from thirty-five to forty-five yards, and at ninepence a yard, that would count up to about one hundred and eighty pounds.

8. "Of course the goods could not be classed as perfect goods. They were sold as remnants at less than one half the price they would have brought if it had not been for the damage done by the hidden pin."

overseer, an overlooker.

happened, took place.

calico, cotton cloth.

remnants, pieces left.

interposed, said.

mischance, mishap.

principal, chief.

web, the woven cloth.

inspected, carefully
looked at.

roll-ers

stol-en

hid-den

ex-am-in-ed

sur-face

sup-pose

mea-sur-ed

ma-chin-er-y

count-ed

smooth-ed

an-oth-er

im-me-di-ate-ly

What did the overseer find in the calico mill? What had it cost the owners? How is calico smoothed after it is washed? What dropped on the principal roller? What was found when the cloth was inspected? How many pieces were there? What were they sold as?





THE OLD STONE BASIN.

1. In the heart of the busy city,
In the scorching noon-tide heat,
A sound of bubbling water
Falls on the din of the street.
2. It falls in a gray stone basin,
And over the cool wet brink,
The heads of thirsty horses
Each moment are stretched to drink.
3. And peeping between the crowded heads,
As the horses come and go,
"The Gift of Three Little Sisters,"
Is read on the stone below.

4. Ah! beasts are not taught letters,
They know no alphabet;
And never a horse in all these years
Has read the words, and yet—
5. I think that each toil-worn creature
Who stops to drink by the way,
His thanks in his own dumb fashion
To the sisters small must pay.
6. Years have gone by since busy hands
Wrought at the basin's stone;
The kindly little sisters
Are all to women grown.
7. I do not know their home or fates,
Or the name they bear to men,
But the sweetness of their gracious deed
Is just as fresh as then.
8. And all life long, and after life,
They must the happier be,
For this "cup of water" given by them
When they were children three.

busy, full of stir.

scorching, burning hot.

bubbling, moving quickly
up and down.

alphabet, the 26 letters.

toil-worn, wearied with
work.

fashion, manner.

wrought, worked.

gracious, loving.

cit-y

thirst-y

crea-ture

scorch-ing

noon-tide

stretch-ed

sis-ter

sweet-ness

be-low

crowd-ed

wo-men

hap-pi-er

THE TWO SIXPENCES.

1. Tom and Ben were cousins, and went to the same school. One day their uncle came to see them. He found they had been good boys, so he gave them sixpence each.

2. What do you think they did with their sixpences? I will tell you.

3. As soon as school was over, away ran the two lads. They passed a shop with nice tempting tarts and sweets in the window. The boys stopped to have a look at these nice things, and for one minute, both of them thought of going in and spending their sixpences.

4. But Tom held back. "No," he said, "I will not spend mine in tarts and sweets. I will have something I can keep, to remind me of my good uncle." So Tom went on, and Ben went in and bought some sweets and buns, and spent all his money.

5. As Ben went on his way home by himself, he soon ate all he had bought. Then he felt rather ashamed of himself. If he told his mother about the sixpence, he was afraid she would not be pleased at the way in which he had spent it. He wished he had taken some home to his sister.

6. Poor Ben did not feel very happy, and when he reached home he went to his own room, and had a good cry. That was the end of his sixpence.

7. As Tom was walking along the street he came to a shop full of books. He had often heard his father talk about books, and say how much he valued them. He had often said he hoped that Tom would

learn to love good books, and study them. Tom did not know much about their cost, but seeing a kind-looking person standing near the door, he asked him if he could have a nice book for sixpence. This person, who was the master of the shop, spoke very kindly to Tom, and asked him to come in.

8. He helped the boy to find a nice little book. It was full of stories about great and good men,—some very poor, some rich, but all of them had tried to do good. So Tom paid his sixpence, and ran off home with a glad heart.

9. Tom's father was very pleased to hear of his son getting sixpence, and still more pleased to see how he had spent it.

10. Tom read his book through over and over again, and hoped he might become like one of those good men.

11. But he did more than this. He told nice tales out of his book to the other boys at school, that they might become good and great too.

12. Tom tried his very best at school, and did his work well. He often paid a visit to the shop where he had bought his first book, and became quite friendly with the kind master. He saved all his money for books, and soon had a nice little library of his own.

13. In time, Tom got to the top of his school, and to his great joy, when he left he was engaged in the very shop he knew so well. The master had been so pleased with the boy, that he was sure he would make a very good servant for him when he left school.

14. In the shop, Tom did as well as in the school. He was loved by all, and in time he rose to be a partner. He did not forget the lessons he had learned in his first little sixpenny book. He tried to be good and to do good. So you see what was the end of his sixpence.

tempting , looking very nice.	library , a collection of books.
valued , thought highly of.	engaged , employed.
study , read over very carefully.	partner , had a share in the business.

cous-ins	walk-ing	vis-it	sto-ries
un-cle	per-son	friend-ly	les-sons
tempt-ing	stop-ped	val-u-ed	six-pen-ny

How did these two boys get their sixpences? How did they think at first of spending their money? What did Tom say of the sweet things? How did Ben feel when he got home? What made him feel so? What had Tom often heard his father talking about? What did he try to get with his sixpence? Who helped him to make a good choice? How did Tom make his purchase a pleasure to others? Where did Tom get to in the school? What became of him when he left school? What did he try to be, and to do?



THE BEST THAT I CAN.

1. "I cannot do much," said a little star,
 "To make the dark world bright!
My silvery beams cannot struggle far
 Through the folding gleam of night;
But I'm only a part of God's great plan,
 And I'll cheerfully do the best I can."
2. "What is the use," said a fleecy cloud,
 "Of these few drops that I hold?
They will hardly bend the lily proud,
 Though caught in her cup of gold;
Yet I am a part of God's great plan,
 So my treasure I'll give as well as I can."
3. A child went merrily forth to play;
 But a thought, like a silver thread,
Kept winding in and out all day
 Through the happy, golden head:
Mother said, "Darling, do all you can,
 For you are a part of God's great plan."
4. She knew no more than the glancing star,
 Nor the cloud with its chalice full,
How, why, and for what all strange things were—
 She was only a child at school!
But she thought, "It is part of God's great plan
 That even I should do all I can."
5. She helped a younger child along
 When the road was rough to the feet;

And she sang from her heart a little song
 That we all thought passing sweet;
 And her father, a weary, toil-worn man,
 Said, "I will do likewise the best that I can."

6. Our best? Ah, children! the best of us
 Must hide our faces away,
 When the Lord of the vineyard comes to look
 At our task at the close of the day!
 But for strength from above ('tis the Master's plan)
 We'll pray, and we'll do the best we can.

silvery, like silver.

struggle, pierce through.

fleecy, like wool.

treasure, riches.

glancing, shining.

weary, tired.

chalice, a cup.

likewise, also.

vineyard, where vines
 grow.

sil-ver-y

strug-gle

cheer-ful-ly

caught

fleec-y

trea-sure

mer-ri-ly

rough

glanc-ing

chal-ice

wea-ry

thought

like-wise

chil-dren

vine-yard

strength



THE STORY OF A MATCH BOY.

1. Not long ago, in the city of Edinburgh, two gentlemen were standing at the door of a hotel one very cold day, when a little boy with a poor thin blue face, his feet bare and red with the cold, and with nothing to cover him but a bundle of rags, came and said, "Please, sir, buy some matches."

2. "No, we don't want any," the gentleman said. "But they are only a penny a box," the poor little fellow pleaded. "Yes, but you see we don't want a box," the gentleman said again. "Then I will sell you two boxes for a penny," the boy said at last; and so to get rid of him, the gentleman, who tells the story, says, "I bought a box; but then I found I had no change, so I said, 'I will buy a box to-morrow.'"

3. "'Oh, do buy them to-night, if you please,' the boy pleaded again; 'I will run and get you the change, for I am very hungry.' So I gave him the shilling, and he started away. I waited for him, but no boy came.

4. "Then I thought I had lost my shilling; still there was something in the boy's face that I trusted, and I did not like to think badly of him. Late in the evening I was told a little boy wanted to see me. When he was brought in, I found he was a smaller brother of the boy that got my shilling, but if possible, thinner and more ragged.

5. "He stood for a moment, diving into his rags as if seeking for something, and then said, 'Are

you the gentleman that bought the matches from Sandie?' 'Yes.' 'Well, then, here's fourpence out of the shilling; Sandie cannot come; he's very ill; a cart ran over him and knocked him down, and he lost his cap and his matches and your sevenpence, and both his legs are broken, and the doctor says he will die; and that's all.' And then, putting the fourpence on the table, the poor child broke out into great sobs.

6. "So I fed the little lad, and I went with him to see Sandie. I found that the two little things lived alone, their father and mother being dead. Poor Sandie was lying on a bundle of shavings. He knew me as soon as I came in, and said, 'I got the change, sir, and was coming back; and then the horse knocked me down, and both my legs were broken.

7. "'And oh, Reuby! little Reuby! I am sure I am dying, and who will take care of you when I am gone? What will you do, Reuby?' Then I took his hand, and said I would always take care of Reuby. He understood me, and had just strength to look up at me as if to thank me; and the light went out of his blue eyes."

Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland.

pleaded, begged hard.

shavings, small thin strips of wood.

diving, putting his hand down quickly.

brought	shil-ling	hun-gry	un-der-stood
mo-ment	wait-ed	match-es	pos-si-ble
knock-ed	trust-ed	to-mor-row	e-ven-ing

Where did the event in this story take place? Where Edinburgh? In what place were the gentlemen standing? What did the little boy want to sell? How many pence did he offer for a penny? What money did the gentleman give him to change? Why did he not come back? Who came to see the gentleman at night? What did he bring? Where did the gentleman find little Reuby? What did the gentleman do with Reuby?



GOOD NIGHT! MY LITTLE BOY.

“Good night! my little boy, good night!
The sun has gone to rest:
The little birds are on their flight,
Each to his downy nest.
And those that have no nests to keep
Them warm and clean and dry,
Stand on one leg, and go to sleep
Under the open sky.
But my little boy has a little bed,
And a pillow on which to lay his head;
So little boy, good night!

2. "Good night! my little boy, good night!
 The flowers so sweet and gay,
 So lively in the morning light,
 Droop at the close of day.
 The insects too, those pretty flies,
 With eyes and wings so bright,
 That flew about the strawberries,
 Say 'Little boy, good night!'
 The butterfly to his tree is flown,
 And the busy bee to his hive is gone;
 So little boy, good night!
3. "Good night! my little boy, good night!
 The lambs are tired of play;
 Then good bye, lambs, so soft and white,
 Until to-morrow day.
 And then, my little boy, you see
 That all to rest are gone:
 Birds, flowers, and insects, lamb and bee,
 And we are left alone.
 Then sweetly sleep till the morning break,
 When the birds, and bees, and lambs will wake
 But now, dear boy, good night!"

flight, in the act of flying. | **droop**, sink.

down-y	live-ly	pret-ty	bus-y
pil-low	morn-ing	straw-ber-ries	lambs
flow-ers	in-sects	but-ter-fly	tir-ed



THE TEMPTATION OVERCOME.

1. A poor chimney-sweeper's boy was employed at the house of a lady of rank to sweep the chimney of her chamber. Finding himself on the hearth of the lady's dressing room, and perceiving no one there, he waited a few moments to take a view of the beautiful things in the apartment.

2. A gold watch, richly set with diamonds, caught his attention, and he could not forbear taking it in his hand. Immediately the wish arose in his mind, "Ah, if I had such a one!" After a pause, he said to himself, "But if I take it I shall be a thief. And yet," continued he, "nobody sees me. Nobody! does not God see me, who is present everywhere?"

3. Overcome by these thoughts, and laying down the watch, he said, "No! I had much rather be poor and keep my good conscience, than rich and become a rogue." At these words, he hastened back to his work.

4. The countess, who was in the next room, having overheard his observations, sent for him the next morning, and thus accosted him: "My little friend, why did you not take the watch yesterday?" The boy fell on his knees, speechless and astonished.

5. "I heard everything you said," continued her ladyship. "I was delighted that you were enabled to resist the great temptation. From this moment you shall be in my service. I will both maintain and clothe you. I will also procure you good instruction."

6. The boy burst into tears. He was anxious to express his gratitude, but he could not. The countess strictly kept her promise, and had the pleasure of seeing him grow up to be a good, honest, and intelligent man.

employed, engaged.
perceiving, seeing.
apartment, room.
pause, stop.
observations, sayings.
countess, lady of rank.

accosted, spoke to.
speechless, without words.
resist, strive against.
maintain, support.
express, show.

chim-ney	con-tin-u-ed	yes-ter-day	temp-ta-tion
di-a-monds	con-science	as-ton-ish-ed	in-struc-tion
at-ten-tion	has-ten-ed	de-light-ed	an-xi-ous

Where was a poor sweep employed? What caught his attention? What did he wish? What did he say after a pause? What did he then do with the watch? Who overheard him in the next room? What did she say to him the next day? What did the boy do in his fear? What did the countess promise to do for the honest boy? What did he become?

THE BULLFINCH FINDING A THIEF.

1. A poor musician had a flute with silver keys. This flute, like many other things, had more beauty than use to boast of, for one of the upper notes could not be sounded. The musician had for a friend a tailor, who, having some liking for music, often came to sing.

2. One night when the musician was out, the flute

was stolen. The tailor seemed very sorry indeed for his friend's loss, and tried to help him to find the thief. The thief, however, could not be discovered.



3. In a few months the tailor went to live in another town. After a year or so the musician paid him a visit. He found that his friend had for his companion a beautiful bird, a bullfinch, that could whistle several tunes very correctly.

4. The musician was delighted; but what was very curious, he soon found that the bullfinch, whenever it came to a certain high note, always skipped it, and went on to the next.

5. How did that happen? It at last struck him that the note which the bird skipped, was the very note which his flute could not sound. He came to the conclusion in his own mind, that the bullfinch must have been taught in some way, from his stolen flute. He accused the tailor, who, pale and trembling, confessed the theft. How soon was his pleasure turned into shame. Little did he think that the bird which he had spent hours and hours in teaching could be a witness against him.

correctly, quite right.
curious, strange.

skipped, missed.
confessed, owned.

mu-si-cian
whis-tle

sev-er-al
cer-tain

con-clu-sion
tail-or

trem-bling
wit-ness

What did the poor musician have? Which of the notes could not be sounded? Who was the musician's friend? What did this tailor do with the flute? Where did the tailor go to live? What bird did the tailor possess? What could this bird do very correctly? When the musician visited the tailor and heard the bird whistle, what did he notice? Why did the bird skip a note? Of what did the musician accuse the tailor? What did the tailor then do?



BULLFINCH.

MERRY RAIN.

1. Sprinkle, sprinkle, comes the rain,
Tapping on the window pane;
Trickling, coursing,
Crowding, forcing,
Tiny rills
To the dripping window-sills.
2. Laughing rain-drops, light and swift,
Through the air they fall and sift;
Dancing, tripping,
Bounding, skipping
Through the street,
With their thousand merry feet.
3. Every blade of grass around
Is a ladder to the ground;
Clinging, striding,
Slipping, sliding,
On they come
With their busy patt'ring hum.
4. In the woods, by twig and spray,
To the roots they find their way;
Rushing, creeping,
Doubling, leaping,
Down they go
To the waiting life below.

5. Oh, the brisk and merry rain,
 Bringing gladness in its train!
 Falling, glancing,
 Tinkling, dancing,
 All around,—
 Listen to its cheery sound!

sprinkle , to scatter in drops.	twig , a small branch of a tree.
coursing , running.	brisk , lively.
tripping , dancing lightly.	cheery , glad.

tap-ping	danc-ing	strid-ing	leap-ing
trick-ling	bound-ing	slip-ping	wait-ing
forc-ing	thou-sand	creep-ing	tink-ling
laugh-ing	cling-ing	doub-ling	list-en

THE HISTORY OF A GRAIN OF CORN.

1. The first thing that I can remember of myself was, when I and my brothers and sisters found ourselves comfortably packed away in one common bed. Of all that was going on outside we knew nothing. It is true we heard the rain pitter patter against our covering, but we did not know what it was. Sometimes we felt warm, sometimes cold, but why we could not tell.

2. Time went on, and we grew with it. There were twenty of us in our family, and we soon began to grow so fast that we pushed our heads out of our cozy cradle. Now we began to see that we were but a few among the many. All around us were

our cousins. We knew they were cousins by their likeness to us. Some of them were older, some younger.

3. Some had left their cradle many days since, while not a few were still wrapped up in theirs. We did not then know all we do now about people and things, but by keeping our ears wide open, we learned some useful facts. We were in the corner of a field, close by a hedge. One man seemed very fond of us. He would often lean over the gate, close by where we were, and as the rain came down pitter patter, warm and fresh, he would say, "I am thankful for this refreshing shower."

4. He would also come and walk with a friend up and down amongst us, making many remarks about us, but generally he was alone. He was the farmer. Time wore on. We had been green and soft, now we were hard and yellow. The sun, day by day, so warmed us that from being green we had become golden.

5. At length the farmer came with his men and cut us down. They then tied us up in bundles and carried us away. We were piled up in a stack, and left for some months, till the farmer pulled us all down again, and carried us into the yard. Here two men untied us. They then put us into a machine that beat us very severely. Still it did not break our bones. They gathered us all together, and in the confusion I lost sight of all my brothers and sisters.

6. We were shovelled up into two heaps, one large and one small one. I was in a small heap. The

farmer came and took a handful from the large heap, wrapped it in brown paper, and carried it away. Not many days after, the whole heap was put into sacks, and sent away in waggons. I found out afterwards that they were all taken to a mill, where they were broken to pieces, and became food for man. Still I stayed with my little heap safe in one corner of the barn.



7. Next came our turn. We were shovelled up and taken into a field, and a man scattered us about. Some of us, I know, were picked up by the birds, although a little boy ran about frightening them away. The harrow soon came and covered us with mould, and we were in the dark. Outside we could hear the rain again go pitter patter, pitter pat, and the little boy crying "Whoop."

8. Here my story stops. I think I began to shoot out and grow. Little readers, can you tell me what I was? If there are any who do not know, I will tell them. I was but a little grain of corn.

cozy, comfortable.
refreshing, reviving.

confusion, disorder.
mould, earth.

re-mem-ber	wrap-ped	re-marks	piec-es
pack-ed	re-fresh-ing	bun-dles	fright-en-ing
cra-dle	show-er	shov-el-led	read-ers

Where were the grains of corn all packed away? What did the grains of corn hear? How did they feel? How many grains were there in one family? Where were these grains growing? Who often came and leaned over the gate? What did he say when it rained? What had made the corn change from green to gold? What did the farmer and his men do when the corn was ripe? Where was it piled? What was done to the corn that was taken to the mill?

ONE STEP AND THEN ANOTHER.

1. One step and then another,
 And the longest walk is ended;
 One stitch and then another,
 And the largest rent is mended;
 One brick upon another,
 And the highest wall is made;
 One flake upon another,
 And the deepest snow is laid.

2. So the little coral workers,
 By their slow but constant motion,
 Have built those pretty islands
 In the distant dark-blue ocean.

And the noblest undertakings
 Man's wisdom hath conceived,
 By oft-repeated effort
 Have been patiently achieved.

3. Then do not look disheartened
 On the work you have to do,
 And say that such a mighty task
 You never can get through;
 But just endeavour day by day
 Another point to gain,
 And soon the mountain which you feared,
 Will prove to be a plain.

4. "Rome was not builded in a day,"
 The ancient proverb teaches;
 And nature, by her trees and flowers,
 The same sweet sermon preaches.
 Think not of far-off duties,
 But of duties which are near;
 And, having once begun to work,
Resolve to persevere!

constant, continually.
distant, far away.
noblest, grandest.
conceived, thought of.

achieved, worked out.
endeavour, strive.
ancient, old.
resolve, decide.

an-oth-er	work-ers	is-lands	re-peat-ed
mend-ed	con-stant	un-der-tak-ing	pa-tient-ly
deep-est	pret-ty	con-ceiv-ed	a-chiev-ed

ALBERT THE GOOD.

1. A German duchess was keeping her birth-day at the palace of a small German city. The court ceremonies being over, the lady retired to her chamber.

2. Presently she heard light footsteps coming up the stairs. "Ah!" she said, "there are my two little grandsons coming up with their good wishes." Two young lads, of ten and eleven years of age, came in, the one named Albert and the other Ernest.

3. They lovingly greeted the duchess, who gave them the usual present of ten louis d'or each, and told them the following anecdote:—

4. "There once lived an emperor in Rome who used to say that no one should go away in sorrow after a visit to a prince. He was always doing good and caring for his people. One evening, while at supper, he remembered that he had not done one single act of kindness to any one during the day, whereupon he cried out with regret and sorrow, "My sins, I have lost this day."

5. "My children, take this emperor for your guide, and live in a princely way like him."

The boys went down the stairs delighted. At the palace gate they met a poor woman, aged and worn, and bowed down with grief and trouble.

6. "Ah! my good young gentlemen," she said, "give a trifle to an aged creature. My cottage is going to be sold for debt, and I shall not have where to lay my head. My goat, the only means of support I had, has been taken. Pity an old woman and be charitable."

7. Ernest told her he had no money to part with, and so passed on.

Albert thought for a moment. He considered her sad condition, and tears came into his eyes. The story of the Roman emperor came into his mind.

8. He took from his purse the whole of the money given to him by his grandmother, and gave it to the poor woman.

Turning away with a light heart he left the old woman weeping for joy.

That noble boy was Prince Albert of England, justly called Albert the Good.

palace, a king's house.

greeted, addressed with kind wishes.

louis d'or, pronounced Loo-e-dore. A gold coin about the value of 20 shillings.

retired, went back.

anecdote, tale.

regret, grief.

trifle, a small coin.

charitable, liberal.

condition, state.

justly, rightly.

duch-ess

e-lev-en

sor-row

gen-tle-man

ce-re-mo-nies

fol-low-ing

e-ven-ing

weep-ing

grand-sons

em-per-or

wo-man

Eng-land

Where was a German duchess keeping her birth-day? Where did she go when the ceremonies were over? What did she hear on the stairs? Who came into her room? What did they do when they came in? What was given to each of them? What interesting anecdote did the duchess tell the boys? When they came down the stairs whom did they meet at the gate? What did she say? What did Ernest tell her? What did Albert do? How *did he* leave the old woman? Who was that noble boy?



TO THE FIRST CUCKOO OF THE YEAR.

1. The flowers were blooming fresh and fair,
The air was sweet and still;
A sense of joy in all things beamed
From woodland, dale, and hill;
On every spray had fairies hung
Their sparkling lamps of dew,
When first across the meadows rung
Thy welcome voice, Cuckoo.
“Cuckoo! cuckoo!” no blither sound
In all the song of birds is found.
2. The early sun was mildly bright,
The woods were sleeping still,
And scarce a chirp came from the trees,
Or murmur from the rill;
It was as nature paused to hear
Thy pleasant song again,
And in her expectation hushed
Each heart-rejoicing strain.
“Cuckoo! cuckoo!” no blither sound
In all the song of birds is found.

3. And as thy voice rung through the air,
 All nature fairer grew;
 The primrose had a brighter tint,
 The violet deeper blue,
 The cowslip hung a richer bloom,
 More sweetly breathed the May,
 And greener seemed the very grass,
 In listening to thy lay.
 "Cuckoo! cuckoo!" no blither sound
 In all the song of birds is found.
4. And, wand'ring through the air, thy song
 Was now afar, now near—
 A song that in its airiness
 Is witchery to hear:
 And never is the spring complete
 Without thy changeless voice,
 And in thy coming to our woods,
 O cuckoo, all rejoice.
 "Cuckoo! cuckoo!" no blither sound
 In all the song of birds is found.

spray, bright water drops.
 blither, more joyful.
 rill, water rippling in.
 hushed, silent.
 lay, song.

airiness, lightness.
 witchery, charming
 beauty.
 changeless, never chang-
 ing.

wood-land	mead-ows	pleas-ant	air-i-ness
fair-ies	blith-er	vi-o-let	witch-er-y
spark-ling	cow-slip	change-less	ex-pect-a-tion



THE TWO APPRENTICES.

1. I want to tell you a short story, and a true one, about two apprentices who went at the same time to some large railway works in the centre of England.

2. These two young men, though coming from different homes, had been brought up to work, and therefore they were willing and anxious to do their duty. They had no wish, as some boys and men seem to have, to be idle all day, or even to play every Monday, and so spoil the week's work. They would not like to be seen standing at the corners of streets, and then going into ale-houses, and learning to do nothing better than to drink and to swear.

3. But still these two young men were not alike. One of them looked upon his work as a task which had to be done, or a hard lesson which had to be learnt; the other looked upon it as a pleasure, and took a pride in it. Let us trace the history of these two young men.

4. One of them felt that he had done all that any one had a right to expect, if he just did the work that was set him, and no more. If he was told to copy out four pages, he never did a stroke more than the four. The time for leaving his work was six o'clock, and at the first stroke of the large clock in the yard away he went.

5. If asked to give some help to another clerk, or to explain something to a young beginner, he would say, very politely, but very firmly, "I am very sorry I cannot find time to do what you want. I shall

only just finish my own work by six o'clock, and then I must go."

6. He never tried to learn any other work than that which he was set to do. He was never moved out of his usual course. He stuck to his own desk and books, and never troubled his head about any one else. But his desk was always very neat, and his books were kept most carefully. He always came in the morning to the minute, and went away in the evening just to the minute. His work was always well done, and he could always be relied upon.

7. When he was out of his time, his employers were glad to keep him as a clerk. He is still in the same works as a clerk, regular, orderly, punctual. Every year he has a small rise in his salary, and seems very happy and contented.

8. But how did his companion get on? To him work was a pleasure, and a source of honourable pride. He did all he was told to do, and was always ready to do more, if wanted. If a hard push of work came, he was quite willing and even glad to stay one, two, or even three hours after time.

9. He tried very hard to get a thorough knowledge of all the office-work. Sometimes he would stay an hour or two overtime in the drawing shop, and learn to draw plans. He would then try to get some knowledge of factory work, and in time he began to understand all the different kinds of machinery.

10. If any new railway-brake, or any improvement in railway engines was introduced, he would come

an hour or two earlier in the morning to examine it, and find out all about it.

11. And yet, busy as he always was, he could always find time to help any of his companions, and so, when he wanted any help or any explanation, every one in the office or in the works was pleased to help him.

12. You may be quite sure that his masters soon found out what a capital apprentice he was. When his time was out, he too was made a clerk, like his companion, but he was very quickly promoted, and now he occupies a very high and important post.

13. Though his position is very much changed, his character remains just the same. He is still willing and glad to help others, and to explain any difficulties to inquiring young clerks. He has never forgotten how much he was assisted by the kindness of his companions and fellow-clerks in days long past. So you may be sure every one honours and loves him. No one dreams of envying him his position.

14. Such men as he, deserve to get on in the world, as they endeavour not only to do their duty, but find a pleasure and a pride in doing it well. If a spirit like this will not make every one rich, it will at least do a great deal to make every one happy. It will give a joy and a brightness to our daily life of greater value and far more lasting than any that money can secure.

relied upon, trusted.
punctual, to the minute.
thorough, complete.
capital, first-rate.

explanation, any difficult matter made clear.
promoted, raised to a higher rank.

ap-prent-ice	his-to-ry	reg-u-lar	know-ledge
anx-i-ous	ex-pect	us-u-al	fac-to-ry
pleas-ure	be-gin-ner	or-der-ly	en-vy-ing
min-ute	em-ploy-er	un-der-stand	care-ful-ly

Where were these two apprentices working together? How had they been brought up? In what different ways did these two look upon their work? When the first was asked to help any one, what was his reply? When he was out of his time, what became of him? What is he doing now? What did the second one do if a hard push of work came? How did he manage to examine any improvements? What became of him when he was out of his time? Why do such men deserve to get on?

THE BUILDING OF THE NEST.

1. They'll come again to the apple-tree—
 Robin and all the rest—
 When the orchard branches are fair to see,
 In the snow of the blossom dressed;
 And the prettiest thing in the world will be
 The building of the nest.
2. Weaving it well, so round and trim,
 Hollowing it with care;
 Nothing too far away for him,
 Nothing for her too fair;
 Hanging it safe on the topmost limb,—
 Their castle in the air.

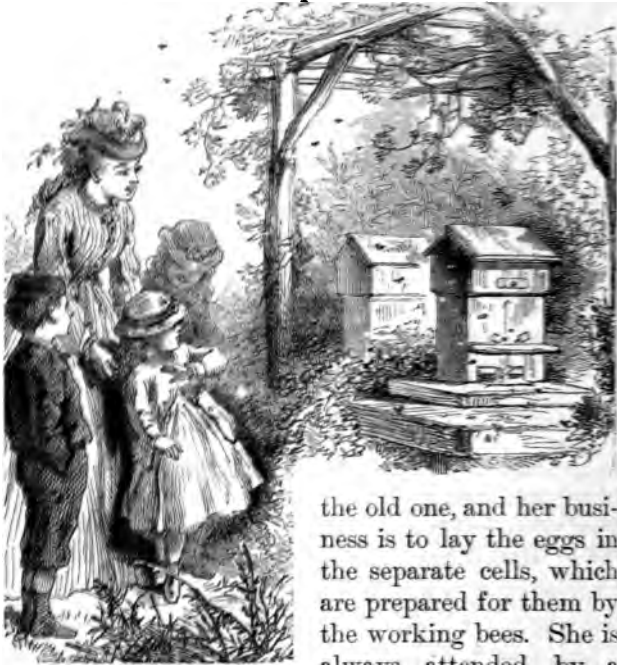
3. Ah, mother-bird, you'll have weary days
 When the eggs are under your breast,
 And your mate will fear for wilful ways
 When the wee ones leave the nest.
 But they'll find their wings in a glad amaze,
 And God will see to the rest.
4. So come to the trees with all your train,
 When the apple-blossoms blow;
 Through the April shimmer of sun and rain,
 So flying to and fro; .
 And sing to our hearts as we watch again
 Your fairy building grow.

orchard , where fruit-trees grow.	weaving , threading in and out.
branches , limbs of trees.	hollowing , making hol- low.
blossom , flowers.	topmost , highest of all.
building , making.	amaze , wonder.
wee , little.	

build-ing	blos-som	weav-ing	cas-tle
or-chard	dress-ed	hol-low-ing	top-most
branch-es	pret-ti-est	no-thing	shim-mer

BEES.

1. There are three kinds of bees in every hive—the queen bee, the drones or male bees, and the workers, which are far the most numerous and the smallest, though the busiest of the three. The queen bee never leaves the hive, except to lead a swarm of her subjects to a new home, when they are too many for



the old one, and her business is to lay the eggs in the separate cells, which are prepared for them by the working bees. She is always attended by a

body guard of ten or twelve, and her subjects appear to pay her the greatest respect.

2. The eggs from which the royal bees and the drones are hatched, are placed in larger cells than those of the workers. Bees newly hatched are in the form of worms or grubs, which are fed by the workers, the food consisting chiefly of a mixture of honey and pollen of flowers. The queen bees receive the best kind of food, the young working bees being provided with inferior food.

3. It is a very curious fact that, should the young queen grubs die, the nurses immediately enlarge the cells containing some of the workers, and feed *them* upon royal food, in order to provide a supply of new queens.

4. When the grub is about ten days old it ceases to eat, and the nurses fasten down the cells with a thin coating of wax, whilst a wonderful change goes on, and the fat white grub or larva becomes the winged and perfect bee. As soon as the young queen comes from its cell, the old one hastens to the spot. Then begins a fierce battle between the two, which never ends until one or other is pierced by the sting of her enemy, and falls dead upon her comb.

5. The victorious queen then leads a swarm of workers and some of the drones in search of a new home; and the next young queen that leaves her cell becomes the head of the old hive, and destroys any other rival that may be hatched from the royal eggs.

6. It has not yet been ascertained whether the drones take any part in the work of the hive, but it is known that they do not collect honey. As soon as winter comes on, and the supply of food becomes short, they are killed by the workers, and their bodies dragged out of the hive; for the bees will not permit any want of order or cleanliness within their home.

7. A certain number of them seem to be charged with the task of removing any dead body, or entirely covering it with thick wax, so as to prevent any bad effects from its decay. Should the heat of the

hive become too great, numbers of bees will come together, and by fanning their wings backwards and forwards, soon cool the air and ventilate the hive.

8. The bee's head, when seen through a powerful glass, displays many wonders. There are three simple eyes, and besides these 3500 double magnifying glasses, which enable it to see the smallest object even in the dark hive. Its mouth is furnished with a long, hollow tongue to suck the honey from the flowers, besides a pair of strong, sharp shears, and two long, trowel-shaped blades, for cutting and working the wax with which it forms its cells.

9. Upon the head are placed the feelers, which are divided into joints, and are in constant motion. It is thought the bees talk to one another by means of these feelers, as they are frequently seen to cross them with those of their companions.

10. Some of the honey obtained by the bee in its day's flight, serves for its own food, and part is placed in the cells when it returns to the hive, and there stored up as food for the winter months. From what the bee uses as food it produces the wax for building its combs. The wax first appears in the shape of small scales coming out from between the rings that form the hinder portion of the bee's body.

11. Besides gathering honey the bee also collects pollen from flowers, which is stored up in cells, and is called bee-bread. If you look closely at the bee, you will see that its body and legs are thickly covered over with hairs, which brush the dust or pollen from the stamens of every flower it enters.

This dust it rubs off with its legs, and rolling it up into little balls, stores them in a hollow between the last two joints of each leg, which are called the pollen-baskets of the bee.

12. If you follow the little insect, returning heavily laden to its home, you may see two or three of its neighbours hasten to its help, assist it to rub off some of its load of pollen, and then carry this away to add to the general store within the hive. It is most interesting to watch these little workers; and if you hold a green branch before your face, you may go near the hive without danger from their stings.

respect, honour.

inferior, worse.

ceases, stops.

permit, allow.

task, duty.

stamen, part of a flower.

nu-mer-ous mix-ture

bus-i-est cu-ri-ous

bus-i-ness per-fect

hatch-ed vic-to-ri-ous

ri-val

clean-li-ness

ef-fects

de-cay

ven-ti-late

mag-ni-fy-ing

com-pan-i-ons

in-ter-est-ing

How many kinds of bees are there in every hive? Which are the most numerous? When does the queen-bee leave the hive? What is her business? How is she always attended? What is the food of the young bees? What happens when the young queen comes from her cell? What does the victorious queen then do? What is done to the drones? How is the hive kept cool? How does the bee's head appear when seen through a magnifying glass? How is it thought that bees talk to each other? How does the bee carry the pollen to the hive? What is done with the pollen? How may you get near the hive without danger?

WORK.

1. Sweet wind, fair wind, where have you been?
"I've been sweeping the cobwebs out of the sky;
I've been grinding a grist in the mill hard by;
I've been laughing at work, while others sigh;
Let those laugh who win!"
2. Sweet rain, soft rain, what are you doing?
"I'm urging the corn to fill out its cells;
I'm helping the lily to fashion its bells;
I'm swelling the torrent and brimming the wells;
Is that worth pursuing?"
3. Redbreast, redbreast, what have you done?
"I've been watching the nest where my fledglings lie;
I've sung them to sleep with a lullaby;
By-and-by I shall teach them to fly,
Up and away, every one!"
4. Honey-bee, honey-bee, where are you going?
"To fill my basket with precious pelf;
To toil for my neighbour as well as myself;
To find out the sweetest flower that grows,
Be it a thistle or be it a rose—
A secret worth the knowing!"
5. Each content with the work to be done,
Ever the same from sun to sun:
Shall you and I be taught to work
By the bee and the bird that scorn to shirk?

6. Wind and rain fulfilling His word!

Tell me was ever a legend heard,

Where the wind, commanded to blow, deferred;

Or the rain, that was bidden to fall, demurred?

pursuing, following.

lullaby, a soothing song.

deferred, put off.

demurred, objected.

urging, persuading.

fashion, shape.

torrent, rapid stream.

brimming, full to the brim.

fledglings, young birds.

legend, an old tale.

sweep-ing

laugh-ing

swell-ing

fledg-lings

cob-webs

urg-ing

tor-rent

lul-la-by

grind-ing

fash-ion

pur-su-ing

neigh-bour

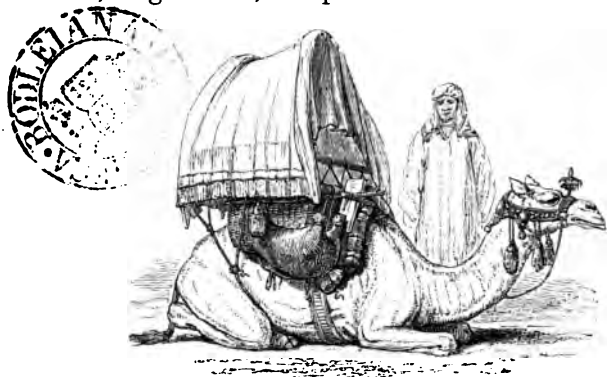
THE CAMEL.

1. A great part of Asia and Africa is composed of vast plains of sand, upon which no grass grows, through which no river runs, and which for the most part are as level as a large sea, unruffled by waves. As far as the eye can reach, nothing is to be seen but sand. All is sand, sand, sand, and when the hot mid-day sun pours down its scorching beams the sand seems to glare and dazzle under the eyes of the traveller, so that it looks as if another sun were beneath as well as above.

2. Here and there, but many miles apart, are to be found patches of verdure—green spots consisting of shrubs, trees, and grass, growing around a small pool of water or a bubbling spring. These green spots are called *oases*. Here the tired and worn-out

traveller can find food and shade, and sleep awhile, sheltered from the burning rays of the sun.

3. How do you think the traveller crosses these burning plains? Not in wheeled carriages, or on horseback, or in railway trains, but on the backs of tall, long-necked, hump-backed camels.



4. Some children have perhaps seen these animals alive, others have only seen pictures of them, but all will be interested to learn as much as they can about these very useful animals.

5. The camel belongs to the same order of animals as the cow, that is, to those which chew the cud. It lives on grass, shrubs, and the short dry herbage which is found on the borders of the desert. It is able to eat a large amount of food, and to drink a great quantity of water at one meal. This enables it to go for some days without food, and so to perform long journeys without stopping to eat or drink.

6. The camel has a very curious lump of fat on the

top of its back called a "hump." One kind of camel has two humps. One purpose that this hump seems to serve, is to supply the camel with strength, when it has neither food nor water, and would otherwise die from want.

7. The foot of the camel is also a wonderful contrivance, and is remarkably well adapted for crossing the soft sandy deserts. It is large, very broad, and has a soft round pad at the bottom, which bears the animal up on the sinking sand.

8. The camel with two humps on its back is much larger and stronger than the camel with one hump. It is often called the Bactrian camel, while the one-humped camel is known as the Arabian camel or dromedary. Asia is believed to be the native country of the camel, but numbers of them are also employed in Africa, and they have been introduced into Australia as well, portions of this country being almost as barren as the deserts of Asia and Africa.

9. The camel is trained to kneel down to receive the load, and to allow its master to get on its back. It can smell water at a great distance. When its rider is nearly dying of thirst, he can tell water is near by the increased rate at which the camel begins to travel.

10. The camel is called by many persons the "ship of the desert." If the desert is like a sea, and the green spots upon it are like islands, so is the camel like a ship, which can carry the traveller from one point to another, quickly and safely.

11. But even with his faithful camel, the merchant

does not dare to cross the desert alone. The difficulty of keeping in the right track, and the fear of roving parties of wild Arabs, who are the robbers of the desert, cause a great number of travellers to join together, and thus to cross the desert in company for protection.

12. Travellers take with them camel-drivers and guides who know the way, and who look after the beasts when they encamp at night. These guides light the fires, cook the food, and fill the large skin bottles with water when they come to a spring.

13. The merchants and travellers, camels and camel-drivers, as they journey together in a large party, are called a caravan.

scorching, burning.
beams, rays of the sun.
patches, bits here and there.
sheltered, protected.
adapted, fitted for.

herbage, the herbs eaten by the camel.
enables, gives him power.
merchant, a trader.
chew the cud, to chew the food a second time.

strength	ver-dure	com-pos-ed	par-a-sols
is-lands	jour-neys	un-ruf-fled	in-ter-est-ed
bub-bling	won-der-ful	tra-vel-ler	con-triv-ance

What is a great part of Asia and Africa composed of? What makes this sand so hot? How are persons carried across the deserts? What has the camel on its back? Name one use of this hump? What is the camel with two humps on its back often called? How does it differ from the camel with one hump? By what name is the camel with one hump known? What sort of a foot has the camel? Why is it well adapted for crossing the sand?

How does the camel receive its load? Why have travellers to keep together in crossing the desert? What is the company of merchants called?



TOO BUSY TO FREEZE.

1. How swiftly the glittering brook runs by,
Pursuing its busy career,
Reflecting the beams of the cheerful sun
In waters transparent and clear;

(5)

R

Kissing the reeds and the lowly flowers;
 Refreshing the roots of the trees;
 Happy all summer, to ripple a song,
 In winter too busy to freeze.

2. Onward it glides, whether sunshine or storm
 Await, on its vigorous way,
 And prattles of hope and sustaining love,
 Whether cloudy or bright the day.
 Chill winter around may its torpor fling,
 And on lazier waters seize,
 But the nimble brook is too much for him,
 Being far too busy to freeze.

3. May we, like the brook, in our path through li
 As active and steady pursue
 The course in which real utility lies,
 Which is lovely and useful too.
 Still nourish the needy, refresh the sad,
 And, despising indulgent ease,
 Adorn life's current with generous work,
 With love that's too busy to freeze.

glittering, sparkling.
transparent, seeing
 through.
reflecting, throwing back.

vigorous, strong.
sustaining, holding
utility, usefulness.
generous, kind.

swift-ly	re-flect-ing	prat-tles	tor-por
pur-sue-ing	trans-par-ent	vi-gor-ous	nim-ble
glit-ter-ing	re-fresh-ing	la-zi-er	de-spis-in

STORIES OF DOGS.

I.—THE DOG THAT SAVED HIS ENEMY'S LIFE.

1. A Newfoundland dog and a mastiff lived in a town by the sea-shore. They were both very strong and powerful dogs, and each was good-natured and good-tempered when alone at home. When they met in the streets, from some cause or other, they were given to snarling and growling at each other, and this often ended in fighting.

2. One day they both met at the end of the long pier, and as usual their growling ended in a fight. In the midst of this, both of them rolled off the pier into the sea. The cold water soon put an end to their battle, and they both began to make for the land as well as they could.

3. The Newfoundland dog being the better swimmer, soon got to the shore, and was speedily on the pier giving himself a good shaking.

4. The mastiff, however, being no swimmer, was struggling exhausted in the water, and was unable to make any progress. He was just about to sink, when the Newfoundland dog, which had been watching him for some time, plunged into the water to his aid. He seized him gently by his collar, and soon brought him safely to the shore.

5. The people who saw this incident, clapped their hands at this kindness on the part of a dog to his enemy.



6. After this the dogs were never seen to fight when they met; indeed, they never seemed so happy as when in each other's company.

II.—THE CHARITABLE DOG.

1. A surgeon one day going his rounds to visit his patients picked up a poor dog, that had been run over by a waggon.

2. He took him home, set his leg, and tied him up. When he was quite well, he was set at liberty.

Some months afterwards, the surgeon was roused in the night, by a dog barking loudly at his door.

3. This barking continued for some time, and as the surgeon thought he remembered the bark, he got up and went down stairs. When he opened the door, there stood his former patient, and by his side a little shivering dog with a broken leg.

4. He had found this poor dog in the street, and no doubt remembering the kindness of the surgeon, had brought him to be cured. They both received a hearty welcome from the surgeon, who was well repaid for his trouble, by this evidence of charity and sagacity on the part of a dog.

powerful, strong.

pier, a landing stage.

speedily, quickly.

patients, sick people.

sagacity, good sense.

exhausted, tired out.

seized, caught hold of.

incident, an event that occurs.

surgeon, a doctor.

snarl-ing plung-ed

growl-ing trou-ble

strug-gling wel-come

pro-gress pa-tient

lib-er-ty en-e-my

re-ceiv-ed sa-gac-i-ty

ev-i-dence re-mem-ber-ed

char-i-ty re-mem-ber-ing

What dogs have we been reading about? What did these dogs often do when they met? What took place when they met at the end of the pier? Which dog got to the shore first? Why? What did the Newfoundland dog do when the mastiff was nearly sinking? How did he seize him? What would you call such an act as this? What was the matter with the poor little dog that the surgeon picked up in the street?

What did he do to him? What did this dog afterwards do? What did the surgeon think of this? Why?

III.—THE SENSIBLE DOG.

1. A gentleman in Scotland sold a large flock of sheep to a dealer. As the dealer was short of men to assist him in driving them to his farm about thirty miles off, the gentleman offered to lend him his sheep dog to assist him.

2. "When you have done with him," said the gentleman, "feed him well, and desire him to go home." The dog received his orders from his master, and set off with the drover and his flock.

3. The dog was absent many days. His master, who valued him very highly, began to have serious alarms about him, and to fear that he was lost.

4. To his very great surprise one morning, the dog returned with a very large flock of sheep, including all those that he had sold to the dealer.

5. The fact was, the dealer was so pleased with the dog, and his care of the sheep on the road, that he determined to steal him. As he was going to live in another part of the country, he had him locked up in a stable, until such time as he could take him with him.

6. The dog grew very sulky at this kind of treatment, and made many attempts to escape. At last he succeeded, and went in the night and collected all the sheep he could find belonging to the man, and took them to his master, no doubt thinking they had been *treated in the same manner as himself.*

7. The dealer was very much put about at the loss of his sheep. He received a letter from the gentleman informing him where they were, and when he came to fetch them, he acknowledged that his treatment of the dog had been the cause of his trouble.

IV.—POSTMASTER GENERAL.

1. A gentleman belonging to the staff of the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley took a long walk in the neighbourhood of Southampton. He was accompanied by a fine Newfoundland dog.

2. In the evening he missed his dog and some letters from his coat pocket. He was not surprised that his dog had not returned, as he often wandered from him in his walks.

3. The next day, the gentleman felt annoyed and puzzled at the loss of his letters. He thought it possible that he might have drawn them out of his pocket with his handkerchief during his previous day's walk.

4. He resolved, therefore, to go along the same path again, for he thought that he might have dropped his letters in an unfrequented part of the road, and that he might find them there still.

5. About four miles from the hospital he came suddenly upon his dog lying on the ground with the letters close by. The dog must have lain by the side of the letters during the greater part of a day and a night.

6. The gentleman has re-named his intelligent dog, "Postmaster General."

dealer, one who buys or
sells sheep or other ani-
mals.

assist, to help.

desire, tell.

absent, away from home.

surprise, wonder.

drover, one who drives
animals.

escape, to get away.

informing, telling.

neighbourhood, near.

annoyed, vexed.

intelligent, knowing.

Scot-land	of-fer-ed	in-clud-ing	de-ter-min-ed
a-larms	val-u-ed	wan-der-ed	ac-know-ledg-ed
treat-ment	se-ri-ous	pre-vi-ous	ac-com-pan-ied
at-tempts	re-turn-ed	be-long-ing	un-fre-quent-ed

Where did the gentleman that sold the flock of sheep live? Why did he lend the man his sheep dog? What did the gentleman tell the drover to do when he had done with him? When the dog did not return, what did his master think? Where did the drover fasten up the dog? When the dog escaped what did he do? When the dealer fetched his sheep back what did he confess? Where did the gentleman live that owned a fine Newfoundland dog? Where did he go for a walk? What did he miss from his pocket? Where did he go next day? What did he find? What did he re-name his dog?

V.—A DISINTERESTED INFORMER.

1. A lady, walking over Lansdown, near Bath, was overtaken by a large dog, which had left two men, who were travelling the same road with a horse and cart. She was followed by the animal for some distance.

2. The dog endeavoured to make her sensible of something, by looking in her face, and then pointing

d with his nose. Failing in his object, he next d himself so completely in front of the lady, prevent her proceeding any further, still look-eadily in her face.

The lady became rather alarmed; but judging the manner of the dog, which did not appear vicious, that there was something about her engaged his attention, she examined her dress, ound that her lace shawl was gone.

The dog, perceiving that he was at length under-, immediately turned back. The lady followed and was conducted to the spot, where the shawl ome distance back in the road.

On her taking the shawl and putting it on her ders, the dog instantly ran off at full speed his masters, apparently much delighted.

ous, savage.

aged, took.

ducted, led.

isdown, a hill near
ath.

apparently, seemingly.

replacing, putting back.

sensible, aware.

Bath, a city in Somerset-
shire.

ace per-ceive-ing

ing com-plete-ly

ad sen-si-ble

an-i-mal

fol-low-ed

trav-el-ling

ap-par-ent-ly

ex-am-in-ed

en-dea-vour-ed

ere was the lady walking? Where is Bath? Whom he dog with? What did the dog do? What did nt to make the lady do? When she examined her what did she find? When she turned back what e dog do? When she put the shawl on her shoulders did the dog then do?



NEVER SAY FAIL.

1. Keep pushing; 'tis wiser
Than sitting aside,
And dreaming and sighing
And waiting the tide.
In life's earnest battle
They only prevail,
Who daily march onward
And never say FAIL.
2. With an eye ever open,
A tongue that's not dumb,
And a heart that will never
To sorrow succumb—
You'll battle and conquer
Though thousands assail;
How strong and how mighty
Who never say FAIL!

3. In life's rosy morning,
 In manhood's fair pride,
 Let this be your motto,
 Your footsteps to guide:
 "In storm and in sunshine,
 Whatever assail,
 We'll onward and conquer,
 And never say FAIL!"

sighing, drawing useless
 breaths.

tide, turn of the sea.

prevail, win.

succumb, give in.

assail, attack.

motto, guiding motive.

dumb, unable to speak.

dream-ing

bat-tle

dumb

as-sail

sigh-ing

pre-vail

suc-cumb

foot-steps

earn-est

tongue

con-quer

guide

STORIES OF GEESE.

PART I.

1. Geese are generally considered to be very foolish birds. This is quite a mistake, for they are in reality very sagacious, and capable of forming great attachments. They also exhibit a certain amount of reasoning power. The following interesting "stories of geese" will show you what I mean.

2. A farmer in Cheshire possessed a flock of geese, one of which, at the end of about three years, began to show a great liking for its master. This liking first appeared in the bird leaving its companions in the farm-yard or on the pond, and stalking after him.

3. The affection of the goose became so strong, that it would follow the farmer wherever he went. The goose would sit outside the door, and run after him, like a dog, to the mill, the blacksmith's shop, or even to the neighbouring town when he went to market. Indeed, if the farmer wanted to go alone he was obliged to fasten the goose up in the pen.

4. The farmer was sometimes in the habit of going out to plough his field. On these occasions the goose regularly passed the day with him. It would walk all day sedately in front of the plough. Now and then it would turn round and look up in the farmer's face, and then go on with a firm step and erect head in front of him.

5. When the farmer returned home at night, it would follow him into the kitchen, and if permitted would sit in his lap.

6. The farmer was taken ill, and was obliged to lie in bed. By some means or other the goose learned what bed-room the sick man occupied. It sat on the grass in front of it all day, looking most unhappy. The farmer, when he was able, went to look out of the window. On seeing its master again, the goose showed the greatest joy.

7. Some of the farmer's friends bantered him for having a goose for his companion. In a moment of ill-humour, he ordered the poor goose to be killed. He was very sorry for this afterwards, and never thought of it but with regret.

8. An old goose, after sitting on her eggs for a fortnight, in a farm-house in Ireland, was taken violently ill. She was soon seen to leave her nest and go to a pen in the farm-yard, where there was a young goose of about one year old. This young goose returned with the old one, followed her into the kitchen, and then scrambled into the nest.

9. The old goose lay down by the side of the nest, and shortly afterwards died. The young one sat on the eggs until they were hatched, and brought up the brood. As the young goose was not in the habit of going into the kitchen, it may be supposed that the old goose had some means of communicating to the young one her inability to hatch the eggs, and to prevail on her to sit in her place.

Cheshire , a county in the west of England.	sedately , with dignity.
reality , in truth.	erect , upright.
generally , in general.	occupied , lived in.
sagacious , wise.	bantered , teased.
exhibit , show.	ill-humour , bad humour.
stalking , walking.	regret , sorrow.
	inability , want of power.

hab-it	rea-son-ing	oc-ca-sions	re-al-i-ty
kitch-en	fol-low-ing	se-date-ly	in-ter-est-ing
scram-bled	pos-sess-ed	or-der-ed	vi-o-lent-ly
hatch-ed	ap-pear-ed	con-sid-er-ed	com-mu-ni-cat-ing

What sort of birds are geese often thought to be? What are they in reality? Where did the farmer in this story live? How did the goose first show its love for its master? What had the farmer to do if he wanted

to go out alone? When the farmer was ploughing in the field, how would the goose walk? When the farmer was ill where did the bird sit? Why did the farmer have it killed? What did the old goose do that was ill? How long did the young goose sit on her eggs?



STORIES OF GEESE.

PART II.

1. Some geese have been known to be very fond of soldiers, and to be pleased with the sound of the

drum. There was one of these, at the town of Paisley, in Scotland, called the "warlike goose."

2. This goose arrived at Paisley when the river on which the town is situated had overflowed its banks. No one knew where it came from, and it was caught in order to be killed and eaten. But it was found to be old, and not worth while to kill, so it was lodged in the stable-yard of an inn.

3. The goose soon began to show its fondness for the soldiers by following every red-coat that appeared in the street near the inn. A company of soldiers having taken up their quarters near, the goose seemed to take the greatest delight in all that they did.

4. It paced up and down the street with the sentinel, stopping when he stopped, and facing when he faced. This march was kept up not only all day, but during the whole of the night. Indeed, the goose was never known to sleep as long as the soldiers remained in the town.

5. When there were no soldiers about, it would pay attention to some of the officers of the neighbouring jail, and would select for its favourites those who were the tallest.

6. In the latter years of its life it became nearly blind, and it was so lame that it could hardly walk. It died in the inn yard, that had been its home for several years, regretted by all in the town who knew it.

to go out alone? When the farmer
field, how would the goose walk?
ill where did the bird sit? Why
it killed? What did the old gos
How long did the young goose sit on



GEESE.

II.

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Paisley, a town in the S. W. of Scotland, near the Clyde.

quarters, the residence of soldiers.

paced, marched at a steady rate.

facing, turning to a front
remained, stopped.

overflowed, ran over the river banks.

sentinel, a soldier placed on guard.

sol-diers

se-lect

of-fi-cers

ap-pear-ed

caught

lodg-ed

com-pa-ny

over-flow-ed

thought

fol-low-ing

fa-vour-ites

re-gret-ted

de-light

at-ten-tion

re-main-ed

neigh-bour-ing

What have some geese been known to be fond of? Where did the goose mentioned in this story live? How did it first get there? What persons did it show its love for? What would it do when there were soldiers in the town? When there were no soldiers whom did it choose for its favourites? Which of these did it select? Where did it die? Who regretted its death?



"I'LL TRY."

1. You will? Well, that's a good resolve;
Now keep it, little man;
In everything you undertake
Just do the best you can.
One never knows what he can do
Until he sets to work;
If you should try and sometimes fail,
'Tis better than to shirk.
2. All honour to the earnest boy
Who tries to do his best,
A strong and noble heart may beat
Beneath a time-worn vest:
Not always does the outward man
Reveal the hidden worth
That goes to make up character
And form the brave of earth.
3. The world has need of heroes
Who will struggle for the truth,
And you, my boy, may find a place,—
There's room for age and youth;
Yes, always room for those who try
To speed the glorious day,
When evil, overcome by good,
Shall yield to right the sway.
4. "I'll try" has conquered many a time,
And conquer yet it will;
Though hard the task and slow the work,
The brave will struggle still.

For God, whose word is ever sure,
 Directs the powers of right,
 And those who look to Him for aid
 Shall conquer through His might.

resolve , make up one's mind.	reveal , uncover.
undertake , try to do.	heroes , noble men.
shirk , avoid work.	sway , chief power.
vest , garment.	aid , help.

earn-est	out-ward	youth	con-quer
hon-our	char-ac-ter	yield	un-der-take
time-worn	strug-gle	right	glo-ri-ous

TAKING OFF THE SHOES.

1. In Syria, the people never take off their caps or turbans, when entering a house or visiting a friend, but they always leave their shoes at the door. The reason is, that their floors are covered with clean mats and rugs. In the Moslem houses the men kneel on the rugs to pray, and press their foreheads to the floor, so that it would not be decent or respectful to walk in with dirty shoes and soil the rugs. They have no foot-mat or scrapers, so that it is much cheaper and simpler to leave the shoes at the door.

2. It is very curious to go to the Syrian school-houses and see the piles of shoes at the door. There are new bright red shoes and old tattered shoes, and kob-kobs and black shoes, and sometimes yellow shoes. The kob-kobs are wooden clogs, made to raise the feet out of the mud and water, having a *little strap* over the toe to keep them on.

3. You will often see little boys and girls running down steps and paved streets on these dangerous kob-kobs. Sometimes they slip, and then down they go on their noses, and the kob-kobs fly off and go rattling over the stones, and little Ali or Yusef, or whatever his name is, begins to shout, "Ya Imme! Ya Imme!"—"Oh, my mother!"—and cries just like little children do in other countries.

4. But it is most amusing to see the boys when they come out of school trying to find their shoes. There will be fifty boys, and of course a hundred shoes all mixed together in one pile. When school is out, the boys make a rush for the door. Then comes the tug of war.

5. A dozen boys are standing and shuffling on the pile of shoes, looking down, knocking away the other shoes, running their toes into their own, stumbling over the kob-kobs, and then making a dash to get out of the crowd. Sometimes hair will be pulled, tarbooshes thrown off, and a great screaming follow, which will only cease when the teacher comes with "asa" or a stick, and quells the riot.

people, persons.
turbans, head-dresses.
visiting, calling upon.
decent, proper.

curious, interesting.
tattered, ragged.
stumbling, falling.
quells, silences.

peo-ple	de-cent	cu-ri-ous	rat-tling
tur-bans	re-spect-ful	tat-ter-ed	dan-ger-ous
vis-it-ing	scrap-ers	stumb-ling	shuf-fling

What do people leave at the door when visiting at

Moslem houses? What country is this in? Why do this? Where may you see a pile of shoes country? What are kob-kobs? What happens soon to those who run in them? What happens when boys come out of school?

CHRYSLIS AND BUTTERFLY.

1. There was a small hole in the old garden. This hole was covered over with cobwebs, and



was a small, dark, looking grub, about as large as the first joint of your little finger.

I had seen it, perhaps, but would not have known what it was, so I wrote you. It was a CHRYSALIS.

2. Now, how do you suppose it got there?

It was just in this way. In the summer, when the trees were covered with green leaves, and when the stream was sparkling and dancing in the sun

appeared in the garden a large caterpillar of many colours, and about as pretty as a caterpillar could be. All day long it was nibbling the green leaves, and the leaves after leaf disappearing before it with wonderful rapidity.

3. It seemed to live only for eating. As autumn came on, it quite lost its appetite; so much so, that even the tenderest and most juicy leaves could not tempt it to eat any more. It grew dull and stiff, and lost all interest in life.

4. Feeling that some change was about to happen, it crawled into this little hole in the old wall. It wrapped itself up in a cobweb, and fell into a long sleep, during which it became changed from a caterpillar into a dried-up, dead-looking grub or chrysalis. It remained in this state through all the long winter, till the snow and frost had all gone, and the cold March winds were over.

5. In April the trees burst forth with their bright green leaves, and the grass looked fresh under the power of the warm rains. In May the many-tinted flowers appeared, filling the air with their sweetness, and brightening the fields and gardens with their gay colours. At this time another great change came over the old grub.

6. The warm pleasant air of June was bringing new life to it, till at last one hot day its winter shell burst open, and the ugly old grub flew forth as a most beautiful, many-coloured butterfly. How joyous it seemed at this release after being so closely shut up for many months.

7. It flew up and down, backwards and forwards, from lily to rose, and from tulip to sweet pea, alighting gently on the flowers, and sucking sweetness from one and then another. It was so delighted, that it knew not how fully to enjoy the change. Instead

of the greedy caterpillar, it was now a light, airy, happy butterfly, with beautiful wings of purple, green, and gold.

8. On the day of this last great change, a boy was playing in the garden with his little sister. As soon as he saw this splendid butterfly, he left his play, forgetting all else in his desire to catch it. With cap in hand he chased it from flower to flower, over the gravel and over the grass, but he could not succeed.

9. While this chase was going on, his father came out, and seeing the state of the case, desired him to let the bright butterfly enjoy its life, now that it was so happy. He then explained to the little fellow the history of the butterfly as you have just read it. He also told his child, that hundreds of years ago, when the Romans carved the figure of a dying person, they represented him with a butterfly coming out of his mouth.

nibbling, biting small quantities.

disappearing, going out of sight.

appetite, desire for food.

interest, care.

remained, stopped.

many-tinted, many coloured.

joyous, full of joy.

release, freedom.

alighting, resting.

chase, race.

represented, showed.

co-ver-ed

won-der-ful

wrap-ped

splen-did

per-haps

au-tumn

ap-pear-ed

suc-ceed

spark-ling

juic-y

seem-ed

ex-plain-ed

cat-er-pil-lar

tempt

en-joy

re-pre-sent-ed

With what was the hole in the garden wall covered? What was in this hole? What was this dead-looking grub called? What beautiful insect might have been seen flying about the garden in the summer time? What was it doing all day long? How did it grow in the autumn? Where did it crawl? In what did it wrap itself? What happened to it? Into what did the ugly grub change in June? From what flowers did it suck sweetness? What were the colours of the butterfly's wings? Who ran after it?



A BIRD'S GRATITUDE.

1. It is very pleasant to see dumb creatures looking upon us as their friends. When we treat them cruelly, they are sure to be afraid of us, and look upon us as their enemies.

2. They keep as far from us as they can, or they show great fear of us. This cannot be right. It would be more pleasant for us, and certainly for them, if this were not so. The most shy and timid creatures will lose all fear, and learn to trust us, if we will be kind to them.

3. There is a very pretty story of a gentleman going to a new house, and finding that a little robin had taken up its abode in the garden. This gentleman was fond of birds, and wished to make a friend of this robin.

4. He went every day with his wife to throw some crumbs for the bird, and by little and little he threw them nearer the bird's usual resting-place. They



called to the bird, and spoke very gently to it, and in less than three months the robin would come at their call, to eat out of their hands.

5. If they stood quite still and upright, the bird would rest on the hand of the lady or gentleman, and there peck his food quite happily. Whenever the lady or the gentleman came into the garden, there *was the little faithful robin* as a companion.

6. Then, at breakfast, or dinner time, they would throw open the window, and little robin would come peeping and hopping in, from the window to the table, or to a chair, and look about at all the strange things in the room. It seemed quite pleased with all the different articles of furniture.

7. When it had hopped about long enough, and picked up the crumbs put down for it, it would chirp a pretty little song in an under-tone, as its best way of saying "Thank you!"

8. This little bird's heart was full of joy and gladness, and it gave constant pleasure to the kind people who had cared so much for it.

9. Is there not much more joy and pleasure in such treatment as this than in climbing trees to rob birds' nests, or in throwing stones to wound and kill these pretty creatures?

shy, afraid of company.
abode, dwelling-place.

gratitude, thankfulness.
constant, continual.

pleas-ant	en-e-mies	hap-pi-ly	cer-tain-ly
cru-el-ly	u-su-al	faith-ful	treat-ment
crea-tures	up-right	ar-ti-cles	climb-ing
break-fast	fur-ni-ture	gen-tle-man	gen-er-al-ly

How should dumb creatures look upon us? How do we make them our enemies? How can the most timid creatures be made to trust us? What did the gentleman find in the garden of his new house? How did he treat the creature he found there? How did the bird act towards the gentleman? What did the bird do at meal times? How did the bird show its gratitude?

THE CROSS SCISSORS.

1. "Why must we always keep together, fastened up tight by that tiresome screw?" So cried one of the two sides of a pair of scissors. "How much more work we could do apart!"

2. Each of us has a sharp point, each has a ring at the end to hold a finger or thumb, and each has an edge for cutting. We don't care to keep together; we don't choose to keep together. If we can get rid of that screw we'll be as wide apart as we can!"

3. So the two points and the two rings of the scissors were stuck out on each side, as wide as they could be, till they looked as cross as possible.

4. But the silly pair of scissors soon found out what a great mistake had been made. Some silk was placed between the two points, which it was their duty to divide, but it was very clear that no cutting could be done while they remained apart.

5. "After all, I can't get on without you," said the right side to the left.

6. "Let us kiss and be friends," said the left side to the right.

7. Then the two rings touched, and the two tips kissed, and the silk was divided with ease.

8. Brothers and sisters who do not love or help one another, who like to keep apart as much as you can, both in your work and your play, remember the story of the scissors. Be glad of the tie that *binds you*; join hands, join hearts; then your work

will be done more quickly, and your play will be more merrily enjoyed.

edge, a sharp side.

mistake, an error.

duty, their work.

divide, to separate.

with-out

quick-ly

di-vid-ed

fas-ten-ed

scis-sors

en-joy-ed

re-mem-ber

to-geth-er

tire-some

mer-ri-ly

an-oth-er

re-main-ed

What did one of the sides of the scissors say? What kept them together? Why did they want to be apart? How far did the points and rings go from each other? Why could they not divide the silk? What had they to do? What lessons may brothers and sisters learn from this?

THE BISHOP AND THE BIRDS.

1. A worthy bishop, who died lately at Ratisbon, had for his coat of arms two fieldfares—birds that resemble thrushes, and visit this country in winter. This strange coat of arms had often excited attention. Many persons had wished to know its origin, as it was generally reported that the bishop had chosen it for himself, and that it bore reference to some event in his early life.

2. One day an intimate friend asked him its meaning, and the bishop replied by relating this story:—

3. Fifty or sixty years ago a little boy resided at a village near Dillingen, on the banks of the Danube. His parents were very poor, and almost as soon as the boy could walk he was sent into the woods to pick up sticks for fuel.

4. When he grew older, his father sent him to pick juniper berries. Day by day, the poor boy went to his task, and on his road, he passed by the open windows of the village school, where he saw the schoolmaster teaching a number of boys of about the same age as himself.

5. He looked at these boys with feelings almost of envy, so earnestly did he long to be among them. It was in vain to ask his father to send him to school, for he knew that his parents had no money to pay the schoolmaster. He often passed the whole day thinking, while he was gathering his juniper berries, what he could possibly do to please the schoolmaster, in the hope of getting some lessons.

6. One day, when he was walking sadly along, he saw two of the boys belonging to the school trying to set a bird-trap, and he asked one of them what it was for. The boy told him that the schoolmaster was very fond of fieldfares, and that they were setting the trap to catch some. This delighted the poor boy, for he recollected that he had often seen a great number of these birds in the juniper wood, where they came to eat the berries, and he had no doubt but he could catch some.

7. The next day the little boy borrowed an old basket of his mother, and when he went to the wood he had the great delight to catch two fieldfares. He put them in the basket, and tying an old handkerchief over it, he took them to the schoolmaster's house.

8. Just as he arrived at the door, he saw the two

little boys who had been setting the trap, and with some alarm, he asked them if they had caught any birds. They answered, no; and the boy, his heart beating with joy, gained admittance into the schoolmaster's presence. In a few words, he told him how he had seen the boys setting a trap, and how he had caught the birds to bring them as a present to the master.



9. "A present, my good boy!" said the schoolmaster; "you do not look as if you could afford to make presents. Tell me your price and I will pay it to you, and thank you besides."

"I would rather give them to you, sir, if you please," said the boy.

10. The schoolmaster looked at the boy as he stood before him, with bare head and feet and ragged trousers, that reached only half-way down his naked legs. "You are a very singular boy!" said he; "but if you will not take money, you must tell me what I can do for you. I cannot accept your present without doing something for it in return. Is there anything I can do for you?"

11. "Oh, yes!" said the boy, trembling with delight, "you can do for me what I should like better than anything else."

"What is that?" said the schoolmaster, smiling. "Teach me to read," cried the boy, falling on his knees; "oh, dear, kind sir, teach me to read."

12. The schoolmaster complied. The boy came to him during his leisure hours, and learnt so rapidly, that the schoolmaster recommended him to a nobleman who resided in the neighbourhood. This gentleman was pleased with the poor boy, and sent him to school at Ratisbon.

13. The boy profited by his opportunities, and when he rose, as he soon did, to wealth and honours, he adopted two fieldfares as his coat of arms.

"What do you mean?" cried the bishop's friend.

"I mean," returned the bishop with a smile, "that the poor boy was *myself*."

Ratisbon, a town in
Bavaria.

Danube, a large river in
Europe.

intimate, special.

juniper, a shrub.

recollected, remembered.

o-ri-gin	vil-lage	pos-si-bly	trou-sers
re-fer-ence	ber-ries	bor-row-ed	sing-u-lar
fol-low-ing	teach-ing	de-light-ed	leis-ure
gath-er-ing	ar-riv-ed	ad-mit-tance	hand-ker-chief

What had the bishop for his coat of arms? What was the little boy, that the bishop spoke about, taught to do? What did he often see on his road? Why did not this little boy go to school? What did he think about very often, when at his work? What did he see some boys doing one day? What thought was put into his head? How did he carry it out? To whom did he take a present of fieldfares? How was the present received? What was the result? Who was this poor little boy?

BOYS, BE BRAVE.

1. Up with your banner, boys!
 Cheer with a hearty noise:
 Bear it with gallant poise;
 Wide let it wave;
 Let sinews well be strung,
 Let arms be lithely hung,
 And health's red flag outflung,
 But, boys, be brave.
2. Never fear cane or thong
 If you've done aught that's wrong,
 Out with it true and strong;
 Coward is knave;

Dare ever truth to tell,
 And though in deepest well,¹
 Plunge in, though up it swell;
 Thus, boys, be brave!

3. Fear not the taunting speech
 Daring to evil teach,
 Urging to Virtue's breach;
 Loud though it rave;
 And though with trembling word,
 Be thy voice ever heard
 Pleading for beast or bird;
 Thus, boys, be brave!

4. Fear but to do the wrong;
 And in all else be strong;
 Speeding through night with song,
 Though dark as grave.
 Thus dare the truth to tell,
 Thus dare the wrong to fell,
 Thus wave the banner well;
 Thus, boys, be brave!

banner, flag.

gallant, manly.

poise, balance.

sinews, muscles of the
 body.

coward, one that is afraid

taunting, teasing.

breach, neglect.

lithely, loosely or easily
 moved.

heart-y

sin-ews

knave

vir-tue

gal-lant

lithe-ly

taunt-ing

urg-ing

poise

cow-ard

breach

wrong

¹ *An old saying tells us "Truth is hidden at the bottom of a well"*



LITTLE TWEET.

A FABLE.

1. Some little birds once lived together in a very large cage. The cage was not at all like the bird-cages we generally see. It was called an aviary, and was as large as a room. It had small trees and bushes growing in it, so that the birds could fly about among the green leaves and settle on the branches.

2. There were little houses in this aviary where the birds might make their nests and bring up their young ones, and there was everything else in it that the people who owned this big cage thought their little birds would want. It had wires all around it to keep the birds from flying away.

3. One of the tamest and prettiest of the birds which lived in this aviary was called little Tweet, because whenever she saw any of the family coming near the cage, she would fly up close to the wires, and say, "Tweet, tweet!" which meant, "Good morning! how do you do!" But they thought it was only her pretty way of asking for something to eat; and as she said "Tweet" so much, they gave her that for a name.

4. One day there was a boy who came to visit the family who owned the birds, and very soon he went to see the big cage. He had never seen anything like it before. He had never been so close to birds that were sitting on trees or hopping about among the branches. If the birds at home were as tame as these, he could kill many of them, he thought.

5. There was one that seemed tamer than any of the rest. It came up close to him, and said, "Tweet, tweet!" The boy got a little stick and pushed it through the wires at little Tweet, and struck her. Poor little Tweet was frightened and hurt. She flew up to a branch of the tree and sat there. When the boy found he could not reach her any more with his stick, he went away.

6. Tweet sat on the branch a long time. The other birds saw that she was sick, and came and asked how she felt. Some of them carried nice seeds to her in their bills. But little Tweet could not eat anything. She ached all over, and sat very quietly with her head down on her breast.

7. She sat on that branch nearly all day. She *had a little baby-bird, who was in a nest in one of*

the small houses, but the other birds said she need not go and feed it, if she did not wish to move about. They would take it something to eat.

8. But toward night she heard her baby cry, and then she thought she must go to it. So she slowly flew over to her house; and her baby, that was in a little nest against the wall, was very glad to see her. In the morning two of the birds came to the house to see how little Tweet was, and found her lying on the floor, dead. The little baby-bird was looking out of its nest, wondering what it all meant. How sorry those two birds were when they found that their good little friend Tweet was really dead.

9. "Poor Tweet!" said one of them, "she was the gentlest and best of us all. And that poor little dear in the nest there, what will become of it?" "Become of it!" said the other bird, that was sitting by poor Tweet. "Become of it! why it shall never want for anything. I shall take it for my own, and I will be a kind mother to it, for the sake of poor little Tweet."

10. Now do you not think that there were good kind birds in that big cage? But what do you think of the boy?

settled, rested.
owned, claimed.

frightened, afraid.
ached, felt pain.

gen-er-al-ly
a-vi-a-ry
pret-ti-est

hop-ping
tam-er
car-ri-ed

qui-et-ly friend
some-thing gen-tlest
won-der-ing re-plied

What is a very large bird-cage called? What were growing in the one that you are reading about? What

was the name of the tamest and prettiest bird in this cage? What would she say whenever one of the family came to the aviary? What did the boy do to Tweet? What did Tweet do? Where did she sit nearly all day? What did she do when she heard her little one cry? Where was Tweet found in the morning? What do you think of the boy?

JUPITER AND THE SHEEP.

A FABLE.

1. The sheep was doomed to suffer much from all the animals. She came to Jupiter and prayed him to lighten her misery.



2. Jupiter appeared willing, and said to the sheep, "I see, indeed, my good creature, I have made thee too defenceless.

3. "Now choose in what way I may best remedy this defect. Shall I furnish thy mouth with terrible teeth and thy feet with claws?"

4. "Ah! no," said the sheep, "I do not wish to have anything in common with the beasts of prey."

5. "Or, shall I infuse poison into thy spittle?"

"Alas!" replied the sheep, "the poisonous reptiles *are so hated.*"

6. "What, then, shall I do? I will plant horns in thy forehead, and give strength to thy neck."

"Not so, kind father. I might be disposed to butt like the he-goat."

7. "And yet," said Jupiter, "thou must thyself be able to injure others, if others are to beware of injuring thee."

8. "Must I?" sighed the sheep. "O! then, kind father, let me be as I am. For the ability to injure will excite, I fear, the desire, and it is better to suffer wrong than to do wrong."

9. Jupiter blessed the good sheep, and from that time forth she forgot to complain.

doomed, compelled.

Jupiter, the chief of the gods according to the belief of the ancient Romans.

lighten, lessen.

remedy, cure.

infuse, pour in.

reptiles, creeping things.

ability, power.

pray-ed

crea-ture

ter-ri-ble

fore-head

mis-er-y

de-fence-less

a-bil-i-ty

ex-cite

ap-pear-ed

fur-nish

pois-on-ous

com-plain

Why did the sheep go to Jupiter? Who was Jupiter? What was the first offer made by Jupiter to the sheep? Why was that offer refused? What was the second offer? How did the sheep reply to that? What was the third offer? What did the sheep say to that offer? What did the sheep resolve to do at last? What was the result?



HERCULES AND THE CARTER.

A FABLE.

1. As a clownish fellow was driving his cart along a deep miry lane, the wheels stuck so fast in the clay that the horses could not drag them out.

2. Upon this he lay down by the side of the road, and began bawling, and praying for Hercules to come and help him.

3. Hercules, who was not far off, came up to him, and asked what he wanted, and why he made so much noise.

4. On being told, he said, "You idle fellow, instead of lying there, get up; coax your horses, put your shoulder to the wheel, and you will soon get your cart out of the mire.

5. "I only help those who try to help themselves, and if you want to obtain my assistance, you must first endeavour to overcome the difficulty yourself."

miry, muddy.

bawling, shouting.

coax, to use kind words.

Hercules, one of the most celebrated of the ancient heroes.

clown-ish

pray-ing

ask-ed

your-self

fel-low

shoul-der

as-sist-ance

dif-fi-cul-ty

driv-ing

ob-tain

en-dea-vour

o-ver-come

What was this clownish fellow doing? What happened to his cart? What did he do? Who came to him? What did he ask him? What advice did Hercules give him? *Whom did he say he only helped?*



SYRIAN BEAR.

THE BEAR.

1. There are many different kinds of bear scattered over large portions of the earth, some of them inhabiting the warmest, others the coldest parts of the world. There is the sun-bear, which dwells in the burning heat of the Indian climate. There is the polar bear, which has its home amid the ice and snow around the Polar regions. There is the brown bear, inhabiting the northern portions of Europe and Asia. There is the Syrian bear, found in the mountains of Palestine. There is also the black bear of North America, which is noted for its fondness for honey.

2. In some of the countries where the bear lives, the people find it of great use. From the skin they make their beds and coverlets, caps for their heads, gloves for their hands, and overalls,

which, when drawn over their shoes, keep their warm, and prevent them from slipping in the snow. The fat and flesh supply them with dainties.

3. The intestines are made into masks, with which they shield their faces from the glare of the sun, and are used instead of glass for their windows. The hard white fat of the animal, when duly prepared, is held in much esteem for increasing the growth of the hair.

4. The people in Norway say that the bear has the strength of ten men, and the sense of twelve. When they speak of it, they never call it by its proper name, lest it should consider this an insult and revenge itself on their flocks. They call it by a name which means "the old man with the fur coat."

5. The bear has from two to four cubs at a time, which are about the size of puppies, and towards which the mother shows great love.

6. On one occasion, a mother-bear with two cubs followed across a field of ice by a party of armed sailors. At first she urged her young ones to increase their speed, but finding the sailors gaining on them, she carried, pushed, or pitched them forward until she escaped.

7. The little creatures placed themselves across her path, and when thrown forward they ran until she overtook them, when they prepared themselves for a second throw.

8. An account is given of another bear whose young had been killed by a shot from the ship. Though she too had been wounded, she made every effort

make her cubs follow her. Not seeming to understand that they were dead, she placed food before them. Seeing they did not eat, she tried to raise them up.

9. Then she would withdraw to a short distance, as if to induce them to follow her, and when she became convinced they could not move, she walked round them, tenderly licking their wounds, and moaning bitterly. Finding them still motionless and cold, she lifted her head and growled fiercely. At this moment another volley of musket-balls was discharged, and she fell between her cubs, and died licking their wounds.

10. Brown bears in their native state are, with some exceptions, harmless. They content themselves with fruit, honey, snails, nuts, and roots; but when pressed by hunger or attacked, they are very savage. When food is scarce, they are sometimes driven by hunger into the villages.

11. One day a brown bear entered a village, and finding the door of a house open, went in. On the fire there happened to be a kettle of boiling water. The bear smelt what was in the kettle and burnt its nose. Made angry with the pain, it vented its fury on the tea-kettle. It folded its arms around it, and pressed it closely to its breast, thereby spilling the boiling water upon itself, and greatly increasing the pain.

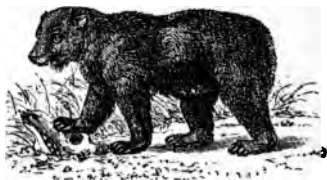
12. Its horrible growling soon brought the neighbours to the spot, when a few shots put an end to its misery.

inhabit, dwell.
celebrated, well known.
masks, covers for the face.
glare, bright dazzling light.
esteem, regard.
revenge, to give pain for pain.
urged, pressed.

effort, exertion.
withdraw, go back.
moaning, grieving loud.
harmless, without harm.
volley, discharge.
vented, let loose.
misery, pain.

scat-ter-ed	in-creas-ing	ac-count	ex-cep-tion
por-tions	shield	in-duce	sav-age
cli-mate	in-sult	mo-tion-less	hap-pen-ed
peo-ple	oc-ca-sion	fierce-ly	hor-ri-ble
dain-ties	crea-tures	dis-charge-d	neigh-bours

Where are bears found? Where does the sun-bea live? Where is the home of the polar-bear? What parts does the brown bear inhabit? Where is the Syrian bear found? Where is the black bear found? What is the black bear noted for? What is made from the skin of the bear? What is done with the fat and flesh of the bear? Of what are masks made? What is said of the strength of the bear? What did a mother bear do to her cubs to get them out of reach of the sailors? What do brown bears eat? What did the bear do to the kettle of boiling water after its nose was burned?



BROWN BEAR.



JOE AND HIS HORSES.

1. Hobbs the miller had two horses, Dobbin and Smiler, and good willing horses they were. Hobbs took great care to feed them and treat them well. He often drove them to the farmer's for corn, or to the baker's with flour.

2. He had a boy in his service named Joe. One day, he sent him to take a load to market. "Here is the whip," said Hobbs, "but I don't think you will want to use it, for a horse will, as a rule, always do his best without any whip."

3. Now Joe was by no means a good lad. When he was at school he was always fighting, and at play he liked to pelt frogs, or to throw stones at a poor cat or a dog.

When he was well out of the miller's sight, Joe began to snap and crack the whip. Although the horses were going very well, he gave Smiler a sharp stroke. This made the poor horse start so quickly that he broke a trace, and then Joe struck him with the whip again.

4. Smiler again started and plunged so much that at last he fell down, pulling Dobbin with him, and turning over the waggon into a ditch. Joe then whipped Dobbin to make him get up, but it only made him kick the more. Smiler also became more and more restive, and struck his leg against the wheel and cut it very badly.

5. There lay the horses, panting and bleeding, and there lay the flour in the mud. Joe had whipped the horses till he was tired, but all to no purpose. He sent a boy back to the mill for help, and Hobbs soon started to see what was wrong.

6. "How is this, Joe?" said Hobbs, when he came and saw the sad state of things. "I am afraid you have been too free with the whip." "Oh! no," said Joe, "Smiler made a stumble and pulled all down together." "Well, but look here," said Hobbs, "here is a cut, and here; why, poor Dobbin's neck is all over cuts. Oh! Joe, you are a bad lad! It would serve you right if I gave you this whip as you have given it to my poor horses.

7. "Look at poor Smiler's bleeding leg, and Dobbin's neck. Think of the cruel pain you have given to these poor horses, and they never hurt you. I shall send you off to-night, Joe, and if any one asks

me, I will tell them what a cruel worthless lad you are."

8. Joe went home, sorry enough to lose so good a master. He was a long time before he could get another place. Thus he suffered for his folly. The miller had to bear the loss of the flour, and every one was sorry for him; but all blamed Joe for his cruel conduct.

pelt, throw at.
trace, straps.
plunge, to rush.

restive, uneasy.
panting, breathing hard.
worthless, of no value.

mill-er	fight-ing	whip-ped	e-nough
will-ing	al-though	bleed-ing	suf-fer-ed
mar-ket	quick-ly	stum-ble	blam-ed
whip	wag-gon	cru-el	con-duct

What were the names of the two horses? How did Hobbs feed them? Who took them to market one day? What kind of lad was Joe? What did he do when at school? When did he begin to crack his whip? What did the horse do? Where was the waggon turned into? What became of the flour? Who went to the mill for help? What did Hobbs say to Joe? What did he say he should do to Joe that night? Why was Joe so sorry?



THERE'S WORK ENOUGH TO DO.

1. The blackbird early leaves its nest,
 To meet the smiling dawn,
 And gather fragments for its nest
 From upland, wood, and lawn.
 The busy bee, that wings its way
 'Mid sweets of varied hue,
 And every flow'r would seem to say,
 "There's work enough to do."

2. Who then can sleep, when all around
 Is active, fresh, and free?
 Shall man, the mighty lord, be found
 Less busy than the bee?
 The path of duty is our field,
 Then let us search it through,
 And taste the joys that labours yield,
 With work enough to do.

3. The time is short, the world is wide,
 And much has to be done;
 Our day of life's the time for work,
 Not death, our setting sun.
 The moments fly with lightning's wings,
 Our life's uncertain too:
 We've none to waste on foolish things,
 There's work enough to do.

fragments, small por- tions. upland, high lands.		hue, colour. search, seek for. labours, work.
--	--	---

dawn, break of day.
varied, changing.

yield, produce.
uncertain, doubtful.

black-bird	bus-y	search	yield
ear-ly	hue	through	un-cer-tain
frag-ments	e-nough	taste	fool-ish



A GOOD JOKE.

1. An old man was so poor, that he used to leave his shoes under the corner of a fence while he went to work in the field. This saved the little wear that might come upon them during his labour.

2. One day, after he had left his shoes, and gone to work as usual, there passed two men, the one a wealthy student of a neighbouring college, and the other a professor of the same. The student caught sight of the shoes, and thinking that they belonged to the old man, proposed playing a joke upon him.

said, "Let us hide the shoes, and watch to see how the old man will act, when he comes out of the field, and finds them gone."

3. "No," said the professor, "the old man is evidently very poor, let us drop a silver florin in each of his shoes, and hide ourselves and wait the result. The young man, who was only intent on having a bit of fun, seemed to think that would do quite as well. He placed the florin in the shoes. They then retired behind a fence, and awaited the old man's approach.

4. He soon came out, and began to put on his shoes. Taking up one of them, he thrust in his foot, but feeling something hard in the bottom withdrew it. He put in his hand and brought out a silver florin. Who could have placed it there? He looked all around, but saw no one. He examined it closely to see if his eyes did not deceive him.

5. With a look of delight he began to put on the other shoe. Again there was something hard in it. He thrust in his hand, when lo! another silver florin! This was more than he could bear. He fell down on his knees and thanked God for the gift. He offered up a prayer aloud, by which the gentlemen learned that he had a sick family at home, and that this money would procure the necessary assistance which would probably be the means of saving their lives.

6. "Now," said the professor to the young man, "which is the better joke, yours or mine?" The student was deeply impressed, and went on his way *a more thoughtful man.*

wealthy, very rich.
college, place of learning.
professor, teacher in a college.
withdrew, took it out.

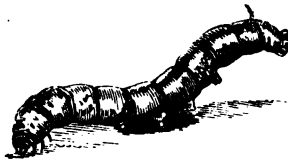
examined, looked closely.
necessary, needful.
procure, obtain.
assistance, help.
probably, very likely.

stu-dent	neigh-bour-ing	evi-dent-ly	gen-tle-men
wealth-y	pro-fes-sor	ap-proach	ne-ces-sa-ry
col-lege	pro-pos-ed	ex-am-in-ed	im-press-ed

Why did the old man take off his shoes when working? What did the student want to do? What did they do instead? Where did they hide themselves? What did the old man find in his first shoe? How did he look when he began to put on the other? What did he find in that? What did he do then? What would the money probably do? What did the professor ask? How was the student affected? How did he go his way?



SILK-MOTH.



CATERPILLAR OR WORM.



COCOON.

THE SILK DRESS.—PART I.

1. "Father," said a little girl, in a very imploring tone, "when will you give me a silk dress? Many other girls have pretty silk dresses, and I should like one as nice and as pretty as theirs. Surely you will never refuse your only child this favour?"

2. "Very well, my child," said the father, "if you will learn to be patient, I will see what I can do for you. Come with me to-morrow morning to my new garden just outside the town."

3. In this garden there were not apple and pear trees, or gooseberry-bushes, or roses and pinks as in our gardens, for it was in a distant country in the East, where very different things grow.

4. However, the little girl was very delighted. She could scarcely sleep all night for thinking about this silk dress. She was rather puzzled to find out why she should go to a garden for it; but she trusted her father. At last she fell asleep, dreaming of silks and satins, and ribbons, and all sorts of pretty things.

5. Early in the morning she was up, and ready to go to this garden. Her father had told her, she must learn to be patient; but she thought she would surely not have to wait many days. By next week, at the latest, she supposed she would have her own bright, new, silk dress, and look as fine as any of her little friends.

6. At the proper time off she ran, and soon found the garden. There was no silk to be seen there, only some cotton and rice plants, with several little canals of bright clear water, and a large number of mulberry-trees.

7. The poor child was ready to cry, her pretty lips pouted, her chin quivered, her eye filled with tears, when her father came up to her with the gardener. "Father, where is my silk dress? I cannot see it *anywhere*! I don't care for this rice and cotton,

and all these gloomy mulberry-trees. I cannot see any good in them!"

8. "The rice, my dear child," said her father, "will supply food for many poor people, and the cotton will give them clothes to wear."

"Yes, father, but these mulberry-trees are of no use to anybody. I wish you would have them all cut down."

9. The father smiled at his child and said, "I thought, my dear girl, you wanted me to give you a silk dress. I am afraid, if I cut down these trees, I cannot give you what you want. If you will only wait and watch, I think you will find that these very mulberry-trees will give you the very thing you want."

10. "Oh, father, you are making fun of me!"

"Very well, my child, wait and see! Here, gardener, show my little girl what you have in your hand."

The gardener showed her some thousands of little things, that looked like specks of dirt, but he told her they were eggs.

11. "There, my child," said the father, "there is your silk dress! You must wait and see, and I think in time you will find what you want. I think that bright, warm sun in the sky will help us, and in time you will find your silk dress."

12. The little girl was sorely puzzled, but she was quite sure her father would never deceive her. Where her silk dress was to come from, she could not imagine. She was determined to watch.



MULBERRY-TREE.

THE SILK DRESS.—PART II.

1. In a few days she was there again, wondering whether she should find a silk dress hanging on the mulberry-trees, for she thought that was how her father intended to surprise her. But there was no silk dress. The eggs were gone. Over the leaves of the mulberry-trees, little tiny worms no thicker than threads, were spread in all directions. "Oh, what horrid creatures!" cried the child, as she ran off to tell her father that the mulberry-trees would be quite spoilt by such grubs.

2. "Father, do come, and throw off these nasty insects. They are all over the trees, and will quite *spoil them*, and then I shall lose my silk dress."

"My dear," replied her father, "these little dirty worms, as you call them, are busy making your dress." The little girl was more puzzled than ever, and tried to look pleased, but she felt very uneasy.

3. However, she came again next day, and for several more days. The worms grew very fast. "And no wonder," said the child to her father. "I never saw creatures eat so much in my life. They go on all day, nibble, nibble, round and round. They will soon eat up all the mulberry leaves."

4. "Well, my child, I must feed my busy little workmen. They are working away for my child's silk dress. They live upon these mulberry leaves."

Another month passed away. The little tiny worms had grown into dirty white caterpillars, and had come to their full size.

5. "Now, my little girl," said the father one morning, "you have seen these caterpillars throw off four coats one after another, as they got too tight for them. They are now a thousand times larger than when they were first hatched."

6. "Yes, father, but they have quite spoilt the mulberry-trees. Look! how they have bored each leaf full of holes."

"Patience, my child," said the father; "these mulberry leaves will yet make you a silk dress." The child could not make it out.

7. Then the worms seemed as if they had eaten so much, they were tired out, and could eat no more. But they were not idle. In a few days the father brought to his daughter a little ball of golden silk, in the *shape of a small egg*. "Here, my child, is the

beginning of your silk dress. This is called a 'cocoon,' and we shall soon have more."

8. The little girl was delighted beyond measure. "What beautiful silk!"

"Yes, my child, this is what those little dirty greedy worms have made for you. No workman in the world could have spun it so well."

9. The father taught the child how to unwind the silk, until, from the many cocoons, she had enough to make the dress which she had so long desired.

10. Not only did the little girl get her dress, but she also got what was far more valuable. She had learnt a lesson of patience and trust, which she never forgot, and she learnt too, what wonderful things are done constantly and silently by nature. Her first lesson, in finding out the great secrets of nature, led to further care and observation, and taught her to love the great God who had made and sustained all these wonderful things.

11. She now understood the meaning of the proverb, "With time and patience the mulberry-tree becomes a silk dress."

imploring, begging.

puzzled, did not know
what to make of it.

sorely, deeply.

cocoon, a ball of silk.

revere, look up to with
awe.

proverb, a short sentence
full of meaning.

sustained, kept.

pret-ty	read-y	quiv-er-ed	de-ceive
mor-row	pa-tient	any-where	im-a-gine
scarce-ly	mul-ber-ry	val-u-able	daugh-ter
rib-bons	thou-sands	de-ter-min-ed	won-der-ful
gar-den-er	di-rec-tions	ca-ter-pil-lars	ob-ser-va-tions

What did this little girl ask for? What answer did her father give her? Why was the little girl puzzled at this answer? What did she expect to find in the garden? What did she really find? What did she think about the mulberry trees? What did the gardener show her in his hand? What did the little girl find on the leaves of the mulberry trees? What became of the worms on these leaves? What at last did the father bring to the little girl? What is a "cocoon?" What proverb did this little girl learn to understand?

STRIKE THE IRON WHILE IT'S HOT.

1. With the light be up and doing,
 For there's danger in delay;
 Hope deferred but leads to ruin:
 Now or never, wins the day.
 With the thought, the deed—begin it:
 Act at once upon the spot;
 What you'd gain—the way to win it,
 "Strike the iron while it's hot."

2. Good advice—ye need not spurn it:
 But the man who'll soonest rise,
 Faces danger but to turn it,
 And upon himself relies.
 Never wait another's aiding,
 You yourself may be forgot;
 Lose no time in vain upbraiding—
 "Strike the iron while it's hot."

3. Would ye do a kindly action,
 Though your aid be vainly lent,
 There is still the satisfaction
 That the act was kindly meant.
 Pause not then to ask another
 If to do the deed or not:
 Look on each as on a brother—
 "Strike the iron while it's hot."

delay, putting off.
 there's, there is.
 it's, it is.
 aiding, helping.
 upbraiding, scolding.

who'll, who will.
 relies, depends upon.
 action, something done.
 pause, stop.
 deferred, put off.

thought	re-lies	ad-vice	de-fer-red
spurn	ac-tion	your-self	an-oth-er
ru-in	vain-ly	up-braid-ing	sat-is-fac-tion

"HAVING SOME FUN."

1. "Now, boys, I will tell you how we can have some fun," said Charlie to his companions, who had assembled one bright moonlight evening for sliding and snow-balling.
2. "What is it?" asked several at once.
 "You shall see," replied Charlie.
 "Who's got a wood-saw?"
 "I have." "So have I," replied three of the boys.
3. "Get them, then, and you and Freddy and Nathan each get an axe, and I will get a shovel. *Let's be back in fifteen minutes.*"

4. The boys separated to go on their several errands, each wondering of what use wood-saws and axes and shovels could be in the play. But Charlie was a favourite with all, and they fully believed in his promises, and were soon assembled again.

5. "Now," said he, "Widow Maude in yonder cottage has gone to a neighbour's to sit up with a sick child. A man brought her some wood to-day, and I heard her tell him that unless she got some one to saw it to-night, she would not have anything to make a fire with in the morning. Now we could saw and split that pile of wood just as easy as we could make a snow-man on her door-step, and when Mrs. Maude comes home she will be most agreeably surprised."

6. One or two of the boys objected, but most of them thought it would be fine fun. It was not a long and wearisome job for seven robust and healthy boys to saw, split, and pile up the widow's half-cord of wood, and to shovel a good path.

7. When they had done this, so great was their pleasure and satisfaction, that one of them, who objected at first, proposed they should go to a neighbouring carpenter's shop, where plenty of shavings could be had for the carrying away, and that each should bring an armful.

8. The proposal was readily agreed to, and when they had done so, they went to their several homes, more than satisfied with the "fun of the evening." The next morning, when the weary widow returned from watching by the sick bed, and saw what was



done, she was most agreeably surprised. Afterwards, when a neighbour (who had, unobserved, witnessed the labours of the boys) told her how it was done, her fervent prayer, "God bless the boys!" was of itself, if they could have heard it, abundant reward for their labours.

companions, play-mates.
assembled, gathered together.

wearisome, tiresome.
satisfaction, contentment.

com-pan-ions
 as-sem-bled
 won-der-ing

min-utes
 se-par-at-ed
 er-ran-ls

fa-vour-ite
 prom-is-es
 neigh-bour

a-gree-a-bly
 sur-pris-ed
 ex-pe-ri-ence

What had the boys assembled for? Who was the first speaker? How many had wood-saws? How soon were they to be back? What had Widow Maude gone to another cottage for? What did Charlie propose to do? How many boys objected? How much wood did they split and saw? Where did they go for some shavings? Who proposed to go there? Where did the boys go afterwards? What did the widow say when she came home?

HONOURING PARENTS.

1. When Sir Henry Havelock was a boy he lived in a house a few miles from London. One day his father took him on a visit to that city. He told Henry he might spend the morning in looking at the shops, or in visiting the shipping, but that he was to meet him on London Bridge at twelve o'clock.

2. His father was, however, so busily engaged during the day, that he quite forgot his appointment with his son. Indeed, he thought no more about Henry till he reached home in the evening, when the arrangements he had made in the morning came into his mind.

3. He asked if Henry had returned home. On being told "No," he said, "I have no doubt but that Henry is still on London Bridge."

4. His father set off at once, and went to London Bridge, and there found little Henry.

5. He had stood there from twelve o'clock in the day, because his father had said, "Stay there till I come to meet you at London Bridge." No wonder

he became a great general, and was so much beloved by his soldiers.

6. A boy who thus honours his father, by obeying his commands, is laying the foundation of a great and good life.

shipping, ships.	engaged, occupied.
general, a commander of	honours, respects.
an army of soldiers.	

com-mands	pa-rents	bus-i-ly	ar-range-ments
dur-ing	vis-it	sol-diers	ap-point-ment
be-came	strict-ly	en-gag-ed	foun-da-tion

Where did Sir H. Havelock live when a boy? To what place did his father take him one day? What did he tell him to do? When did he promise to meet him? Where? Why did he not keep his promise? When did he think of it? What did he say? Where did he find Henry? What is this story a good example of?

THE WHEEL-WRIGHT'S SON, THAT BECAME A GREAT MUSICIAN.

1. More than a hundred years ago there lived in Austria a poor wheel-wright. He had a little son, five years old, whose name was Joseph. Both the wheel-wright and his wife were very fond of music, and in the evening, when the day's work was over, he used to play a harp, while his wife accompanied him with her voice.

2. These home concerts were the delight of little *Joseph*. He would sit on his mother's knee, and

listen to them with the greatest interest. Now and then he would get a board and play on it with a piece of stick, pretending that it was a violin.

3. Little Joseph had an uncle, who was a school-master and a musician. One day, when he was on a visit, he observed the little boy's love of music, and offered to take him home with him, and give him a good education. His parents, who were poor, were glad of this offer from uncle Frank; and Joseph when only five years of age left his home to make his way in the world.



4. His uncle gave him lessons in Latin, he taught him to play on the violin, and to sing in the parish church. In after life he used to say his uncle was very severe with him, and gave him more cuffs than gingerbread.

5. When Joseph was eight years old, the chapel-master from the Cathedral at Vienna came to the village in search of voices to add to his choir. He heard Joseph sing, and was much surprised at the exactness of his execution and the beauty of his voice. He observed that he did not perform any shakes, and asked him the reason. Joseph said in reply, "How can you expect me to shake when my uncle Frank does not know how to do it himself?"

6. "I will teach you," said the chapel-master. He took little Joseph on his knee, and showed him how he should rapidly bring two notes together, hold his

breath, and agitate the palate. Joseph tried, and immediately made a good shake.

7. This so pleased the chapel-master, that he took a plate of fine cherries, which uncle Frank had given him, and emptied them all into the boy's pocket. Haydn, for that was the boy's other name, often told this story in after years. He said whenever he made a shake he seemed to see that plate of beautiful cherries before him.

8. The chapel-master took Haydn back to Vienna, and put him in the Cathedral choir. He remained there working hard for eleven years. When he was ten years old he composed pieces for six or eight voices, but had to work under very great difficulties, for he was unable to pay for a master.

9. He was poor and friendless, and had to live in a garret, but in time, by means of steady work and the cultivation of his talents, he became rich and the favourite of princes. But he always said that his youthful days were the happiest in his life, because he was so busy, and eagerly adding to his stock of knowledge.

10. He became one of the most celebrated of musicians. One piece composed by him called the "Creation" is considered his greatest work.

Austria, a large country
in Central Europe.

violin, a fiddle.

musician, a person skilled
in music.

severe, strict.

observed, noticed.

agitate, to shake.

palate, roof of the mouth.

cultivation, training.

talents, the powers of the
mind.

favourite, one much liked.

eagerly, earnestly.

con-cert	in-ter-est	ex-e-cu-tion	con-sid-er-ed
list-en	pre-tend-ing	e-du-ca-tion	cel-e-brat-ed
cous-in	sur-pris-ed	cul-ti-va-tion	im-me-di-ate-ly
beau-ty	com-pos-ed	dif-fi-cul-ties	ac-com-pa-ni-ed

What country did this wheel-wright live in? What was the name of his little son? What was Joseph very fond of? What did his cousin Frank observe when he came over on a visit? What did he offer to do? How old was Joseph when he left home? What did his cousin teach him? Who came to the village where he lived, to obtain voices for his choir? What did he teach Joseph to do? How did he reward him for his success? Where did he take Joseph to? Where did he live in Vienna? How did he become rich? What days did he say were the happiest in his life? Why? Name his greatest musical composition.



PERSEVERANCE

1. We need not be ashamed to learn,
And our first efforts show;
For in this world from little things
The greatest often grow.
There's not a learned sage that lives,
Whatever his degree,
Who did not at the first begin
With simple A, B, C.
2. Then upward, onward, step by step,
With perseverance rise;
Bend mind and will to every task,
Nor first attempts despise.
'Tis idleness alone despairs,
And never will aspire,
But industry still presses on
With patience nought can tire.
3. Begin while life is bright and young,
Work out each noble plan;
True knowledge lends a charm to youth,
And dignifies the man.
Then upward, onward, step by step,
With perseverance rise;
And emulate, with hearts of hope,
The good, the great, the wise.

sage, wise scholar.
degree, honours won at college.
perseverance, keeping on and on.
despise, look down upon.

aspire, desire to rise.
despairs, loses all hope.
patience, quiet working on.
dignifies, makes noble.
emulate, try to be like.

a-sham-ed	de-spise	pa-tience	know-ledge
what-ev-er	de-spairs	nought	dig-ni-fies
per-se-ve-rance	in-dus-try	young	em-u-late

THE SHEPHERD BOY, THAT BECAME A GREAT PAINTER.

1. It is a true saying that "no one knows what he can do until he tries." Many of the great men who have lived had little idea, at one period of their lives, of the future greatness that awaited them. Few men become great all at once. It is often only after years of steady work, and the careful cultivation of their powers, that they become famous. Perhaps there is no better example of this than the shepherd boy whose life I am going to relate.

2. This boy, whose name was Giotto,¹ lived in Italy about six hundred years ago. His father was a herdsman, and his cottage was situated in one of the beautiful valleys that are so numerous in that country.

3. When Giotto was old enough to go to work, he was put to assist his father in his duties as a herdsman. He had to drive his flock from the fold to the mountain-side, watch them during the day, and bring them home at night.

4. The work was not hard, and Giotto had much spare time. Most of the other boys spent the day in sitting on the grass under the trees, watching the birds or clouds, or playing on a rough kind of flute.

¹ Pronounced Jiot-to.

5. But Giotto soon found out that he could do something, and do it well, and that it gave him much more pleasure than following the example of his companions—he could draw.

6. Every moment of his spare time, when he was not engaged in tending his flock, he spent in drawing. He had not, however, the same advantage that many boys have at the present day. His pencil was a bit of slate, and his paper the large stones he found on the hill-sides, or the exposed surface of a rock.



7. At last by constant practice he could with much skill draw any of his sheep or goats.

8. One summer afternoon, as he was lying down by the side of a large stone, and quietly drawing a goat that was grazing near, a stranger came

and stood behind him. Giotto was so busy with his drawing that he was not aware of his presence.


9. The stranger was himself a great painter, who lived at Florence. He was delighted to see the shepherd boy so occupied, and to observe the correctness of outline in the drawing. He spoke to Giotto, and asked him if he was fond of drawing, if he would like to become a painter, and if he was willing to work. Giotto's answers were so earnest, that the stranger went with him to his father's house, and offered to take Giotto back with him to Florence, and to teach him to paint.

10. The painter took a great liking to Giotto. He sent him to school, where he received a good education. He also taught him to paint, and Giotto worked so hard that his paintings soon came to be well known and sought after.

11. People came from all parts to buy them, because they were so lifelike and natural. No doubt Giotto first learnt this power of being true to nature when he was a boy copying his sheep by the hill-side.

12. His fame was now so great, that even the rich nobles of Italy came to see him and make his acquaintance. He was not spoilt by this fame, but remained as quiet and simple in his habits as when a poor shepherd lad. Indeed some persons who came to see him could not believe that they saw the great painter before them.

13. To convince some of them, Giotto once took a piece of chalk, and drew on a board before them a



perfect circle. Now this is a most difficult thing to do, but Giotto had trained his eye and hand so well, that he could do it easily. Even to this day in Italy when a person wants to say that anything is very round, he says, "it is rounder than the O of Giotto."

14. I hope that all who read this will make up their mind to cultivate, as much as they can, whatever talents God has given them. All who have a talent like Giotto for drawing cannot become great painters, but they can, if they are earnest and work with a will, make their lives happier and more useful by the cultivation of it.

Italy, a beautiful country
in Southern Europe.

period, at one time.

famous, well known.

herdsman, one who tends
sheep and goats.

Florence, a beautiful city
in Italy.

tending, looking after.

convince, to prove.

difficult, hard to do.

cultivate, to train.

fu-ture a-wait-ed

re-late pe-ri-od

pleas-ure ex-am-ple

prac-tice en-gag-ed

ad-van-tage cul-ti-va-tion

ex-pos-ed sit-u-a-ted

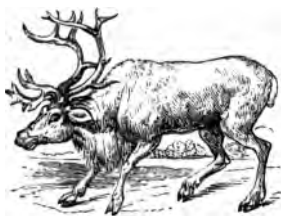
of-fer-ed com-pan-i-ons

re-ceiv-ed oc-cu-pi-ed

How do men generally become famous? What was the name of the shepherd boy? How many years have passed since he lived? What was his father's occupation? In what country did he live? What was Giotto very fond of? What did he draw with? On what? Who observed him one day drawing a goat? What did the painter offer to do? Where is Florence? What did he teach Giotto? How did Giotto paint? Why were his paintings very much admired? How did he prove to some painters that he was Giotto?

THE REINDEER.

1. There are several kinds of deer, but the reindeer is the most useful. It is a native of the most



northern parts of Europe, Asia, and America, and although many attempts have been made to accustom it to a warmer climate, it soon feels the effects of the change, and in a few months declines and dies.

2. In North America and Greenland the reindeer exists only as a wild animal, being hunted for the sake of its skin and flesh; in Europe and Asia, however, it is also kept as a domestic animal. It forms the greater portion of the wealth of the Laplanders, and from it they supply most of their wants.

3. It answers the purposes of a horse, to convey them from one part of the land to another. It answers the purposes of a cow, in giving them milk to make butter and cheese, and it answers the purposes of a sheep, in giving them a warm though homely kind of clothing. From this animal, therefore, they receive the advantages which we derive from three of our most useful creatures.

4. The general height of the reindeer is about four feet and a half. It has very curious horns. Each horn has two chief branches, one of which hangs

over its forehead, and the other inclines towards its neck. Unlike all other animals of the deer kind, the females have horns like the males.

5. The pace of the reindeer is a kind of rapid trot, and it can continue this for a whole day, dragging a sledge behind it for perhaps a hundred miles. Its hoofs are cloven and movable. The reindeer spreads them, in walking or running, to prevent itself from sinking into the frozen snow. One singular thing about the hoofs is, that in travelling, they are heard to crack with a pretty loud noise.

6. The colour of the hair on its body is brown above and white beneath. As summer advances, the brown turns to a light gray.

7. Lapland is divided into two districts, the mountainous and the woody. The inhabitants generally reside on the sides of the mountains during the short summer months. On the approach of winter they remove to the plains.

8. One remarkable feature of these plains is that they are often completely covered with a kind of lichen known by the name of reindeer moss. It is of a silvery white colour, and in summer gives to these plains the appearance of snow.

9. It is on this plant that the reindeer lives during the greater part of the year. When the snow covers the ground, it uses its feet and mouth to scrape it away, and finds in abundance the food it is seeking. If the snow is too deep, it repairs to the woods, and lives on the moss it finds on the branches of trees.

10. Although the countries which the reindeer inhabits are so cold, yet during the summer they are infested with swarms of flies. To avoid these, both the Laplanders and the reindeer are compelled to reside on the mountains to be out of their reach. The gad-fly is the greatest enemy of the reindeer. It lays eggs in its skin, and the grubs or maggots which are hatched from them burrow in its flesh, often causing death.

11. The reindeer is a useful beast of burden. Harnessed to a sledge, it can trot ten miles an hour. The sledge is made very light, and covered at the bottom with the skin of a young deer, with the hair on the outside, so as to slide with ease on the frozen snow. In Siberia the people sometimes ride on its back.

12. The person who sits on the sledge, guides the animal with a cord fastened round the horns. He encourages it to proceed with his voice, and drives it with a goad or sharp-pointed stick. The reindeer will travel fifty or sixty miles at a stretch, but it does not generally run without a halt more than thirty miles. On this sledge it can draw a weight of from 240 to 300 lbs.

13. The flesh of the reindeer forms the chief food of the people of Lapland. No part of the dead animal is wasted, and no part thrown away as useless. The skin is made into clothing and boots, and is used instead of bed-clothes and for covering tents; from the horns and hoofs glue may be obtained. Bow-strings, twine, and thread are made of

its tendons, and knife-handles and other articles of its bones.

convey, to take.

regions, parts.

domestic, tame or kept by man.

Lapland, a country in northern Europe.

Greenland, a country near the North Pole.

derive, to get.

repair, go to.

continue, to keep on.

cloven, split.

movable, can be moved.

inhabitants, people.

remarkable, wonderful.

abundance, plenty.

harnessed, fastened to.

tendons, sinews.

rein-deer	jour-ney	ad-van-tage	en-cour-age
na-tive	sev-er-al	sing-u-lar	dif-fi-cul-ty
de-clines	ac-cus-tom	com-plete-ly	gen-er-al-ly
crea-ture	en-tire-ly	ap-pear-ance	com-pel-led

In what parts of the world is the reindeer found? What happens to it if taken to warm climates? How does it answer the purposes of a horse? How does it answer the purposes of a cow? In what manner does it answer the purposes of a sheep? What is the general height of the reindeer? What sort of horns has it? How are they branched? What sort of hoofs has it? What happens to them when it goes over soft snow? What grows on the plains of Lapland? How does the reindeer get it from under the snow? What fly infests these lands? Where does it lay its eggs? What is the bottom of a sledge covered with? Why? What weight can the reindeer draw? Tell some uses of the reindeer when dead?





SLEDGE AND REINDEER.

THE REINDEER.

1. Reindeer, not in fields like ours,
Full of grass and bright with flowers;
Not in pasture-dales, where glide
Ever-flowing rivers wide;
Not on hills where verdure bright
Clothes them to the topmost height,
Hast thou dwelling; nor dost thou
Feed upon the orange bough;
Nor doth olive nor doth vine
Bud and bloom in land of thine,
2. But thy home and dwelling are
In a region bleak and bare;
In a dreary land of snow,
Where green weeds can scarcely grow;
Where the skies are gray and drear;
Where 'tis night for half the year;
Reindeer, where, unless for thee,
Human dweller could not be.

3. When thou wast at first designed
 By the great Creative Mind—
 With thy patience and thy speed,
 With thy aid for human need,
 With thy foot so formed to go
 Over frozen wastes of snow—
 Thou for frozen lands wast meant,
 Ere the winter's frost was sent;
 And in love He sent thee forth
 To thy home, the frozen North,
 Where He bade the rocks produce
 Bitter lichens for thy use.
4. Serving long, and serving hard;
 Asking but a scant reward;
 Of the snow a short repast,
 Or the mosses cropped in haste.
 Reindeer, away! with all thy strength,
 Speeding o'er the country's length;
 Speeding onward like the wind,
 With the sliding sledge behind.

pasture-dales, valleys of
 grass land.

verdure, greenness.

bleak, without trees or
 flowers.

dreary, desolate.

produce, bring forth.

designed, planned.

lichen, a kind of plant
 resembling moss.

sledge, carriage without
 wheels.

scant, small.

repast, feast.

rein-deer

drear-y

cre-a-tive

lich-en

past-ure

scarce-ly

pa-tience

re-ward

slid-ing

de-sign-ed

wastes

strength

THE POLAR BEAR.

1. The polar bear, or great white bear as he is more frequently called, is found in countries surrounding the North Pole.



WHITE OR POLAR BEAR.

This animal is from six to seven feet in length, and is covered with a coat of long white hair, slightly tinged with yellow.

2. The lands in which he is found, are wild and desolate. No flowers or fine trees gladden the eyes of the people who dwell there. The whole country for the greater part of the year is covered with snow and ice. Summer lasts for but a short period, and in winter the sun is not seen at all for months at a time.

3. The sea also is frozen over for a great part of the year, and when it is not, great lumps or islands of ice, called icebergs, float about.

4. It is wonderful indeed, that any animals at all should be able to exist in such desolate regions. Almost the only ones found there besides the polar bears, are deer, a kind of small wild ox, called the musk ox, and some kinds of foxes. Amongst these the white bear reigns as king. He alone is dreaded by the few people who dwell there.

5. We may think it strange that the bear should be able to find food sufficient to keep him alive, when

the creatures fitted for his prey seem so scarce. But it is in the sea that the polar bear chiefly seeks his food, and here he finds abundance, for the waters of this part of the world teem with animal life; fishes, seals, and sea-horses being found in great numbers.

6. The air is also filled with millions of sea-fowl, whose eggs and young provide for him a dainty feast in the spring of the year, when he wakes up from his long winter sleep.

7. Sometimes, too, a dead whale is thrown up on the coast, and this provides food for him for a long time.

8. The white bear, like most other animals of the same family, sleeps soundly during the coldest part of the winter. He generally goes to sleep in some deep crevice of a rock, or in a snow cave, that he forms for himself.

9. When he wakes up thin and hungry, he first of all roams about the rocks, and robs the sea-fowl of their eggs and young, which are very plentiful in the spring. At other times he sits patiently near some crack in the ice, until a large fish comes up to the surface, when one stroke of his powerful paw secures him a good dinner. He will even plunge into the water after a fish and return with it in his mouth.

10. Seals, which are very numerous in these icy regions, are his favourite food. Seals are swift swimmers, very sharp in sight and hearing, and easily alarmed. He has therefore to adopt very great craft *in order to* get near them.

11. He goes very quietly into the water, and then by a series of dives, tries to come up close to where they are, so that he can pounce upon them in an instant. If he finds the seals on the ice, he has not so much difficulty to catch them, as they cannot move very rapidly out of the water.

12. Sometimes in pursuit of seals, bears are carried away on the floating ice. Many are carried in this manner to Iceland from the coasts of Greenland. When they land they are very destructive to the sheep and cattle, and the inhabitants are compelled to join together in large numbers to hunt and kill them.

13. Hunting the polar bear is always a very dangerous occupation. A she-bear will often turn on the hunters, and if she has cubs, will die in defence of them.

14. Many stories have been told of hair-breadth escapes of sailors and others while in pursuit of the bear. One is told of Nelson, the naval hero, who, while a young midshipman, went with his uncle to visit the polar seas.

15. One day he was missed from the ship, and some sailors were sent out on the ice, by his uncle, to find him. The sailors after some time found young Nelson attacking a large polar bear, which would probably have killed him, had they not come up. On being rebuked by his uncle for going alone on such a dangerous hunt, Nelson replied that he wanted to kill a bear himself, to make a present of the skin to his mother for a hearth-rug.

16. The flesh of the bear is considered excellent food, and the skin is much prized by the inhabitants of the polar regions, as forming their warmest kind of clothing.

tinged, slightly coloured.

exist, live.

desolate, lonely.

dreaded, feared.

sufficient, enough.

provides, gives.

teem, abound.

dainty, nice.

crevice, a small crack.

roams, wanders.

adopt, use.

craft, slyness.

series, number.

alarmed, frightened.

occupation, labour.

probably, likely.

bor-der-ing im-mense

glad-den mil-li-ons

ice-bergs plen-ti-ful

re-gions pa-tient-ly

al-though fa-vour-ite

nu-mer-ous pur-suit

eas-i-ly mid-ship-man

dif-fi-cul-ty pro-ba-bly

rap-id-ly re-buk-ed

de-struc-tive in-hab-it-ants

Where is the polar bear found? What is its length? What covers the land the greater part of the year? What are icebergs? What animals are found in these desolate regions beside bears? Where does the bear find abundance of food? What is his food in the spring? When does the bear take a long sleep? Where does he sleep? Where does he find food after his long sleep? What is his favourite food? How does he catch the seals? How do bears get from Greenland to Iceland? What do the people of Iceland do when the bear appears among them? What will a she-bear often do when hunted? What did the sailors find young Nelson doing one day? Why did he attack the bear? Of what use is the flesh *of the bear*? To what use is the skin put?

THE SONG OF THE CROCUS.

1. Down in my solitude under the snow,
Where nothing cheering can reach me;
Here without light to see how to grow,
I trust to nature to teach me.
2. I will not despair, nor be idle nor frown,
Locked in so gloomy a dwelling;
My leaves shall run up, and my roots shall run down,
While the bud in my bosom is swelling.
3. Soon as the frost will get out of my bed,
From this cold dungeon to free me,
Up I will raise my bright little head;
All will be joyful to see me.
4. Then from my heart will young petals diverge,
As rays of the sun from their focus;
I from the darkness of earth will emerge
A happy and beautiful crocus.
5. Gaily arrayed in my yellow and green,
When to their view I have risen,
Will they not wonder how one so serene
Came from so dismal a prison?
6. Many, perhaps, from so simple a flower
This little lesson may borrow—
Patient to-day, through its gloomiest hour,
We come out the brighter to-morrow.

solitude, loneliness.
 despair, give up hope.
 gloomy, dark.
 dungeon, a prison cell.

petals, leaves of a flower.
 diverge, go different
 ways.
 emerge, to rise out.

cheer-ing
 sol-i-tude
 na-ture

de-spair
 dwell-ing
 swell-ing

dun-geon
 pet-als
 di-verge

beau-ti-ful
 ar-ray-ed
 dis-mal









